NORTHERN REVOLUTIONS.

PART II.

CONTAINING THE

CHARACTERS of the PRINCIPAL AGENTS

In bringing the FREE STATES of

NORDWEG and DANEMARCH

TO

FINAL DISSOLUTION.

ADDRESSED and PRESENTED

To His Grace the DUKE of BEDFORD,

Lord Lieutenant general and general Governor of IRELAND,

By BRITANNO-HIBERNUS, C.D.P.F.H.E.

Fair FREEDOM, BIRTH-RIGHT of all thinking kinds,
Reason's great CHARTER, from no king deriv'd,
By none to be reclaim'd; man's RIGHT DIVINE,
Which GOD, who gave, INDELIBLE pronounced.

MALLET's Hermit.

LONDON,
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Some of the more palpable ERRORS to be Corrected.

Page 27, line 32, for he, read, ſhe. p. 28, l. 33, for they, r. the people. p. 34, l. 24, for deſence, r. defence. p. 44, l. 36, for inſtruſted, r. intruſted. p. 45, l. 17, for which, r. whom. p. 49, l. 35, for compriſe, r. compromiſe. p. 73, l. 37, for they, r. the. p. 80, l. 30, for reſpetive ruin, r. reſpective ruins. p. 102, l. 32, for the preſident of the commons, r. inſtead of the preſident of the commons, baron Beſston. p. 112, l. 5, for grievance, r. grievances. p. 126, l. 26, after ſtiled, add the. p. 157, l. 26, after it; add a. p. 138, l. 3, for born, r. borne. p. 145, l. 18, for demonſtratian, r. demonſtration. p. 152, l. 3, for think, r. thought. p. 156, l. 32, after was, add the p.

To his Grace

The Duke of BEDFORD,

Lord Lieutenant general and general Governor of Ireland.

My Lord,

THE purport and intent of this addreſs leave no room for an apology for directing it, even to your Grace: it comes from a Briton, who has not yet learned to fawn for favours. And who, above all ſelfiſh or ſiniſter motives, judges it his duty, as well as his right, to make this ſeaſonable application to the representative of his sovereign, before he enters upon his high commission; and this, with due reſpect to your Grace, and with the moſt public, the moſt diſintereſted views.

Your Grace is now ſetting out in the moſt high, the moſt important and honourable employment, at this time known in the gift of any crowned head in Europe. You are to repreſent the Majesty of Britain in a confederate kingdom. The good of his people, his own honour, and your renown, muſt be preſumed the objects of his Majesty's views in the appointment of your Grace to hold the regal reins of government, for him, in that kingdom.

It cannot be ſuggeſted, that your Grace could accept of this great commiſſion with any other view, than the fulfilling his Majesty's intentions. And therefore, it muſt be preſumed, that every hint tending to theſe great ends, tho' it ſhould come from the meaneſt hand, muſt be acceptable to your Grace.

Your office, my Lord, like that of a king, admits of no mediocrity in its execution: every

lieutenant, as well as every king, muſt either be a bleſſing or a curſe to the people over whom he is ſet to rule. And, as honour and glory ever attend a juſt and faithful diſcharge of the vicegerents, as well as of the regal, office; ſo muſt ſhame and infamy purſue the abuſe or neglect of either. In ſuch an alternative, it cannot be difficult to determine which muſt become YOUR GRACE'S choice.

There is nothing more ſurprizing than the diſproportion univerſally found, between the powers exerciſed by crowned heads and their ſubſtitutes: Moſt of theſe appear to have been every where ſo intoxicated with pomp, that they ſoon forgot their conditions, as well as their principals. So far did the viceroy of *Naples* formerly eclypſe his ſovereign of *Spain*, that a *Neapolitan* ſuiter has been known to expreſs his gratitude, upon obtaining a ſuit from the king, which was not to be asked, much leſs obtained, from his lieutenant; by praying his majeſty may live to be as great as the viceroy of *Naples*. The like prayer might ſometime have been as properly made by certain ſubjects of *Ireland*, had their loyal petitions to their ſovereign been heard.

This diſproportion however, is not ſo wonderful in abſolute monarchies, remote from the ſeat of government: there, the viceroy, at ſetting out, muſt exerciſe the deſpotic ſway of his principal: upon which, in time, he generally founds a tyranny of his own.

But, as it is hard to conceive how the multitude ſhould any where ſuffer the eſtabliſhment of a ſingle tyrant; it is ſtill harder to judge, by what means the vicegerents of limited monarchs, ſhould become tyrants; ſuch as have overturned the free ſtates of *Nordweg* and *Danemarch*, and have, ſometime, induſtriouſly laboured to effect the deſtruction of *Ireland* and *England*.

The freedom and rights of the ſubjects, are as well eſtabliſhed, as the prerogatives of the crowns, of theſe kingdoms. No good ſubject can give up the one, more than he can invade, curtail or extend the other. The laws, which are the loyal ſubjects protection, ſet no limits to the power of the crown, in DOING GOOD. And while they puniſh the tranſgreſſing ſubject, they expreſsly provide, THAT THE KING CAN DO NO WRONG.

Had theſe relations, theſe rules of action, been properly obſerved, between the kings and people, neither *Nordweg* or *Danemarch* had yet fallen, nor ſhould we have ſeen ſo few, ſo very few of the king's lieutenants in *Ireland*, that thought themſelves under any legal direction or reſtraint, much leſs circumſcribed by ſuch narrow rules as theſe.

Upon a preſumption, that YOUR GRACE's greateſt ambition is to be inrolled in this moſt truly honourable MINORITY; a ſtranger takes the liberty of ſetting YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS NAME to the front of theſe ſketches of HISTORICAL FACTS; which, though relating to men and countries, in whoſe fates, theſe happy realms may not be thought immediately concerned; yet, from the natural relations and connexions of civil ſocieties to each other, may not be found altogether unworthy of the attention of a patriot, even in YOUR GRACE's exalted ſtation.

The moſt ſenſible traveller, in ſtrange countries, requires a guide. And the moſt expert mariner, in every port, demands a pilot.

From a knowledge of the country and the coaſts, to which YOU are bound; with the pure intent of ſteering YOUR GRACE's barque, clear of the ſtreights, ſhoals and rocks, that have retarded and indangered, fruſtrated and diſhonoured the navigation of ſome of YOUR predeceſſors, as well as wrecked their veſſels on an enemy's ſhore, and with that of pointing out the open, ſafe, fair, ſhort and pleaſant, though

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the leaſt crowded ways, that lead where YOUR GRACE can moſt eaſily, effectually and honourably diſcharge the great duties of YOUR office; where YOU may find YOUR GREAT PRINCIPAL inthroned in the hearts of a loyal people; with theſe purpoſes and from theſe motives alone, a man, who looks for no private favour, with due reſpect, thus offers himſelf, YOUR GRACE's guide. If he ſhews, he knows the ways; YOU can not diſdain his humble aid. If he ſhould be miſtaken; his honeſt zeal to ſerve his KING, his COUNTRY, and YOUR GRACE, muſt plead his excuſe, where poſſibly the rules of prudence may not inforce his counſel. But, if he ſets buoys upon the rocks, on which others have ſplit, it will ſurely be offering an acceptable ſervice to YOUR GRACE.

From the general ſimilarity of the tempers and diſpoſitions of men, in all ages and nations of the world; all human inſtitutions, however wiſely planned and firmly founded, muſt ever be ſubject to fluctuation and decay. The greateſt commonwealths, the moſt powerful empires, had frailty enough, interwoven with their frames, to cauſe a ſenſible decay, after a certain period; and in time, to work their final diſſolutions. And if we may exult upon being the laſt of the gothic governments of *Europe*, that has preſerved its integrity; we have ſtill the mortifying conſiderations, that ours was but the laſt founded, and that however nobly and ſtrongly our political fabric may be built; there is ſo much human frailty in its compoſition; that it had not till now withſtood the ſhocks of time and perverſe men, were it not duly ſupplied with ſuccours drawn from the original funds of wiſdom and virtue, by which it was raiſed, and from whence it muſt ever ſtand in need of conſtant, regular ſupplies for its ſupport.

We have lived to have the advantage of the neighbouring nations in numberleſs inſtances: our wiſe

wiſe fathers have collected all that was found good, without the groſs evils, of the polity of the mother ſtates. Having thus compoſed and eſtabliſhed a better ſyſtem of civil ſociety; we have made out a title, to what we now enjoy, ſuperior longevity to moſt, if not to all, of the other governments, on the ſame plan. And, if we do not prudently avoid the cauſes that concurred in the ruin of like-founded ſtates, and by their fatal examples, protract, if not prevent, our own deſtruction; how deſervedly great muſt be our condemnation!

It is with intent, MY LORD, to point out the diſaſterous ſteps of others, as a warning to ourſelves, that I have thus endeavoured to collect the ſcattered fragments of the obſcure hiſtories of fallen *Danemarch* and *Nordweg*, and placed them in the following familiar view.

From the ſituation of this people, their cuſtoms, manners and politics, may be preſumed to bear ſtronger affinity to ours, than thoſe of *Romans* or of *Greeks*, which we have fondly affected to emulate. We certainly ſwarmed from the northern hive. And as we evidently derive the principles of our polity from the ſame ſource; it is but wiſe to regulate our political oeconomy ſo, as neither to adopt or inherit the diſtempers that haſtened the ruin of the parent country.

When YOUR GRACE caſts an eye over the annexed papers, you will diſcover the diſeaſes that brought the ſtates of *Danemarch* and *Nordweg* to final diſſolution. There are no diſeaſes, which the children have more to dread, than thoſe that have proved fatal to their parents. And when thoſe are once known, the offspring that do not, to their might, guard againſt the evils of the dreadful inheritance, deſerve neither help nor pity in their diſtreſs.

Whether there be any thing in the caſes and circumſtances, or in the characters of the men, that con-

concurred in the deſtruction of *Danemarch* and *Nordweg*, analogous to thoſe that have occured in the annals of *Great Britain* and *Ireland*, is ſubmitted to YOUR GRACE's judgment.

But, with heart-felt ſorrow, it muſt be obſerved, that *Ireland* has laboured under ſuch oppreſſive and iniquitous meaſures of adminiſtration, as were ſometime a reproach to her ſons, as well as to the generality of the rulers, that have been ſet over that ill-fated people.

Such, MY LORD, have ſome time been the rulers of that unhappy people, that no ſubject could ſay, his life, liberty or property were ſecure, if the vicegerent thought it but expedient to bereave the unfortunate object of his diſpleaſure or envy, of all or any part of his poſſeſſions. And, though this made a part of the complicated accuſations, that juſtly brought one tyrannical vice-king to the block; ſome of his ſucceſſors have no leſs hardily perpetrated the like crimes; by one means or other, aſſuring themſelves of impunity.

The oppreſſor's wrongs, the law's delay, and the inſolence of office have often been loudly, bitterly complained of in that kingdom. Yet have the complaints of the aggrieved been ſo far from being carried, or permitted to come, to the throne; that the injured have been puniſhed for complaining. And this, much later than lord *Strafford*'s time.

Inſtances might be given YOUR GRACE, not only of individuals, but of whole communities of ſubjects, being openly and peremptorily denied juſtice in the courts of law; while the oppreſſed were cenſured, if not puniſhed, for only attempting to ſue for common rights by due courſe of law. The authors of theſe enormities may be known, by finding the perjured, iniquitous judge, and perhaps his abetters, rewarded with annual bribes, penſions extorted from the abuſed public.

In ſhort, MY LORD, while we have lived to ſee the higheſt crimes committed by men in the higheſt ſtations; we have alſo ſeen the moſt zealous aſſerters of the rights of *Britiſh* ſubjects, agreeable to the principles that brought about the revolution and the *Hanover* ſucceſſion, loaded with oppreſſion and obloquy, in *Ireland*; where ſuch ſubjects have ſuffered proſcription, baniſhment and diſfranchiſement, without the authority, without the bare form of law; while their antagoniſts, for no greater merit than oppoſing ſuch, from the contrary principles and views, have been dignified with titles, or ſupported by penſions on the plundered public. Who has not ſeen or heard of theſe outrages, theſe daring inſults to the ſovereign? Yet who has ſtood forth to demand juſtice or redreſs of wrongs? Who has made the deſtructive grievances known to the crown?

It cannot be doubted, that it is HIS MAJESTY'S full intention, that no complainings, no murmurings ſhould be heard any where in our ſtreets. And we may reaſonably preſume, it is with a view, becoming his royal clemency, and paternal care, with intent to wipe away the tears of his faithful and long-ſuffering ſubjects, that HIS MAJESTY now ſends one, in all reſpects ſo fully qualified to repreſent him, as the OFFSPRING of that MARTYRED PATRIOT, whoſe memory muſt ever be held ſacred, while any traces or ſenſe of *Britiſh* liberties remain.

Had I not, from theſe conſiderations, conceived ſome hopes of a reſtitution of long-ſuppreſſed, public rights in *Ireland*, for the common good and honour of *England*, whoſe intereſt, I hold equally dear, and look upon as mutual and inſeparable; I ſhould have ſpared YOUR GRACE, as well as myſelf, the trouble of this addreſs.

But, from YOUR illuſtrious family and rank; from YOUR abundant fortune; from YOUR general

character, and the happy occaſion offered; and, above all, from the RICH BLOOD of the MARTYRED CHAMPION of our liberties that flows in your veins; every true lover of his king and country is taught to hope for a ſpeedy reſtoration of *Britiſh* polity, under YOUR GRACE's auſpices, in *Ireland*. And I, in particular, am perſuaded, that YOUR GRACE muſt be as averſe to the treading in the infamous ſteps of ſome of your predeceſſors there, as a SIDNEY or a RUSSEL muſt ever deteſt the ways of a *Strafford* or a *Tyreconnell*.

Leſt this may fall under the imputation of being but the common courſe of dedicatory compliments, the author purpoſely conceals his perſon and his real name from YOUR GRACE. Let me juſt inform you, that he has never learned to proſtitute any member, any ſenſe. And of all the privileges of a BRITON, holds moſt ſacred that of ſpeaking his ſentiments in TRUTH AND FREEDOM; diſdaining nothing more, than to ſpeak a language foreign to his heart. What I here ſay of YOUR GRACE, I really think and believe, and fully hope to be right. Had I had cauſe to judge otherwiſe, the weight of your power and fortune joined ſhould not tempt me to addreſs YOU, in this manner; I had rather have drawn an other character, and have ſaid, as *Nathan* to *David*, THOU ART THE MAN.

The truth is, from a knowledge and reverence of YOUR GRACE's great parentage; from a notion of YOUR affluence and the grandeur and influence of YOUR HIGH STATION; I have formed to myſelf a character, from which, I muſt look for every thing reaſonable, every thing deſireable. I can hope for nothing leſs from YOUR GRACE's hands, than that all juſt grounds for complaints of evil government in *Ireland*, which muſt ever prove a reproach as well as a prejudice to *Britain*, muſt be removed, by ſuch a juſt, ſuch a loyal and patriot adminiſtration, as may well be expected, if not demanded,

from the DESCENDENT and REPRESENTATIVE of the GREAT LORD RUSSEL. And it is from theſe aſſurances alone, that I am induced thus to offer theſe papers to YOUR GRACE's hands; with no other ambition than that of doing my duty; perſuaded that YOUR GRACE WILL GO AND DO LIKEWISE.

We, MY LORD, who are endowed with a juſt ſenſe of freedom, muſt with horror ſee the degenerate ſtate of the nations around us. What are now become of the great commonwealths of GREECE and ROME? They are gone, without leaving ſo much as a wreck behind! What is FRANCIA now? A gulf of ſlavery! Where now are her free ſtates and parliaments?---The remnant left is broken, baniſhed or impriſoned, at a ſingle tyrant's nod. But to come nearer, perhaps too near home, what is become of the ELECTIVE, LIMITED CROWNS, the INDEPENDANT SENATES, the FREE ESTATES or DIETS of DANEMARCH and of NORDWEG, that bore ſuch analogy to our form of government?--The very words to expreſs the aſſemblies of their ſtates, are now hardly known among that wretched, inſlaved people. And the civil officer, they inſtituted, to preſide in their councils in peace, and to lead their armies in war; from a limited governor, under the name of a king, acting by, and ſubject to, popular laws; is now become an ABSOLUTE SOVEREIGN, an HEREDITARY DESPOT, whoſe will is a law, and whoſe late creators are now his vaſſals! Who does not ſhudder at the ſhocking thought?

MY LORD, the ſeeds of good policy and of bad, like thoſe of virtue and of vice, are ſown and grow in every ſoil promiſcuous. We cannot boaſt of being more wiſe, more virtuous, more free, than the people of thoſe fallen nations ſometime were. We can have no beter aſſurance of the permanence of our freedom, than thoſe once had of theirs. It is incumbent on us then, to examine and to watch ourſelves; and, if we find among us, any

propenſity

propenſity to the evils, that overturned thoſe ſtates, to ſuppreſs and correct it. In this, I perſwade myſelf, I muſt be honoured with YOUR GRACE's concurrence. And if I have been ſo fortunate as to furniſh you with a TOUCHSTONE, in the following ſheets; my ends are anſwered.

If then, it were poſſible, YOUR GRACE ſhould find *Ireland* infected and deformed with the like vices and evil policy with thoſe that firſt inſlaved *Nordweg*, and then overturned the free ſtate of *Danemarch*; can it be doubted that you would, with parental care, with all your might, labour to extirpate, or to ſtop the progreſs of, the deſtructive evils?

Should YOU find that kingdom and its capital overturned, robbed of the common rights of ſubjects and of men; could YOU be at peace, till YOU ſaw them reinſtated?

Should YOUR GRACE find parliaments in effect made perpetual, and that without any authority of law, in that kingdom; could YOU be contented, till YOU found means of reſtoring them to the primitive inſtitution, at leaſt as near it as the *Britiſh* parliament ſtands?

Should it appear to YOUR GRACE, that either eſtate of that realm ſhould take upon it a ſole legiſlative power, regardleſs of the other eſtates; and that mock-laws, thus made by a faction, ſhould be impoſed upon the public; would not YOUR GRACE exert your utmoſt authority and power to overturn the abominable uſurpation? Or,

Should YOU find a fourth eſtate ſetting itſelf up in the legiſlature, and that, as it muſt be whenever it appears, without any warrant from law or common ſenſe; would YOU not ſtraitway reduce and puniſh ſuch uſurpers, as wiſdom and the laws direct?

Should YOU find the kingdom without a SOVEREIGN JURISDICTION; would YOU not uſe all means to ſupply the capital defect? Or,

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Should YOU find that ſeats in both houſes of parliament, were as publicly bought and ſold as the voices of the members; could YOUR GRACE heſitate one moment at damning the ignominious, deſtructive commerce?

Should the COMMONS appear to be *no repreſentative* of the people; would not YOUR GRACE diſdain to hold a *ſpurious*, and ſtraitway call a LEGITIMATE PARLIAMENT, which alone can anſwer the ends of the inſtitution; do honour to the king and his repreſentative, and preſerve the ſacred rights of the ſubjects?

Should YOUR GRACE find, that certain *factious aſſociations* in iniquity contended for the rule of a diſtracted land, and for ſharing or abuſing the lawful power of the king's vicegerent; would YOU not rule them with a rod of iron, and break them in pieces like a potter's veſſel, fit onely for the moſt ignoble ends? Would YOU not wreſt all power out of ſuch *vile hands*, and reſtore the current of public buſineſs to its proper channels? Or,

Should YOU find a number of *drones* in the *hive*, or *leeches* ſet to ſuck out the vitals of the conſumptive body-politic; ſhould YOU find the *induſtrious labouring* under *heavy taxes* to raiſe *penſions* for the *encouragement* of *indolence* and *ſloth*, for *rewarding* the *betrayers* of the public, for *paying* the *wages* of *ſin* and *political proſtitution*, or at beſt to *ſupport* the *pride* and *luxury* of *uſeleſs externs*, or *enemies*; would not YOUR righteous ſpirit kindle into rage, and make YOU ſtraitway curtail ſuch extravagancies? correct ſuch abominable abuſes?

And, tho' YOU ſhould find, that ever ſo many of YOUR predeceſſors ſhould have tranſplanted the follies and vices, moral and political, of one of theſe kingdoms into the other, cheriſhing and propagating them by their *excellencies'* examples; or, ſhould engage in their ſervice and train, the moſt infamous

infamous profligates, adjudged criminals, disgraced, abandoned sharpers or gamblers; filling all places in the church and state with such despicable reprobates; or giving them pensions on an overburdened establishment; who can suspect or conceive YOUR GRACE capable of countenancing, or even of being in any measure influenced by, such shameful and destructive examples? Is it not rather to be presumed, that, if such obprobrious, such deadly incumbrances should be found, precipitating the ruin and confirming the infamy of the state; YOUR GRACE, ever far from increasing the number, would act the part of a good gardener, and lop off such useless suckers? or, like a prudent surgeon, quickly cut off such mortified limbs, such consuming excrescences, to save a wretched life? Who dare think otherwise of YOUR GRACE? Or,

Should YOU find, that any *lord lieutenant* could have been so wicked as to set out upon his government with the *avowed purposes* of ruling, by *bribing one half of the parliament* highly, with the *public money*, and *oppressing* and *punishing the other most severely* and arbitrarily; must not YOUR GRACE and all good men look upon loyalty to such a viceroy, even to such a king, if such there were, as treason against the state? as a revolt against laws, morals, and common sense? Suppose YOURSELF then, MY LORD, unking'd for a moment, and imagine YOURSELF a subject, or a member of the parliament, of *Ireland*; could YOUR GRACE's heart know peace, or YOUR temples taste of rest, till YOU found means to cut off the worse than barbarous vicetyrant? or to brand him with indelible infamy, black as his atrocious crime? I know YOU could not. And would not YOUR GRACE have every subject, if ever this should happen, follow YOUR great example?

In short, MY LORD, should YOUR GRACE by this TOUCHSTONE discover any of the evils that overturned

turned other free ſtates, raiſe their deſtructive heads, and make a progreſs among a people, under YOUR government and protection; is it to be doubted that YOU ſhould exert YOUR utmoſt power and means to obviate, to ſtop the progreſs of, or to remedy ſuch evils?

I am perſuaded, YOUR GRACE muſt ever do what wiſdom, honour, and the laws direct, whether theſe matters be found thus or otherwiſe. YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS NAME, aſſuredly, can never be abuſed to give ſanction to any degree of iniquity or illicit adminiſtration. And YOU will therefore ſet YOURSELF to oppoſe and reform whatever abuſes or maladminiſtrations of government, YOUR GRACE ſhall at any time find threatening the peace, freedom, and happineſs of either kingdom.

While YOUR GRACE determines, as no doubt YOU muſt, thus firmly to govern upon the principles of *Britiſh* policy; you can never need the precarious ſervices of *ſordid mercenaries* in your councils, the ſhameful tools of ſome of YOUR *predeceſſors*. Nor can thoſe principles be ſhaken in YOUR GRACE'S hands, much leſs *wreſted* out of YOUR hands, as they were out of thoſe of ſome of YOUR *predeceſſors*, by the *illicit aſſociations* of *diſappointed*, *ſlaviſh* agents in parliament. There are thoſe, that ſtill retain ſenſe enough of virtue, honour, and the laws, and love and duty enough to their country, to their king and his repreſentative, to ſupport conſtitutional meaſures, at the expence of their fortunes or their lives. If ſuch men be not in parliament, they ſhould be there, and muſt be, whenever the people are encouraged or permitted to chuſe real, inſtead of nominal, repreſentatives. Among thoſe, YOUR GRACE can never want an invincible guard to YOUR perſon, And by theſe, YOU will ever find it eaſy to fulfil HIS MAJESTY'S MOST GRACIOUS INTENTIONS, in aſ-

ſerting

ſerting and ſupporting the CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS of a long-abuſed, yet brave and loyal people.

Let me now, MY LORD, take my leave.—As it muſt be preſumed, YOUR GRACE muſt ever aim at, and having obtained it, muſt ever hold faſt, the thing that is right; I flatter myſelf, this humble attempt, to ſerve the KING and people of GREAT BRITAIN, by vindicating the rights of his MAJESTY's crown and ſubjects in IRELAND, and to conduct YOUR GRACE to the paths that lead to the temples of HONOUR and IMMORTALITY, will be taken in good part, as it is intended by him, who, upon theſe preſumptions and theſe principles alone, thinks it an honour to ſubſcribe himſelf,

MY LORD,

YOUR GRACE'S

Moſt faithful friend

and

From the METROPOLIS, *Sept.* 7, 1757.

Moſt devoted, humble ſervant,

BRITANNO-HIBERNUS.

P. S. As it is wiſhed to make this a compleat *Touchſtone*; it is lamented that the hiſtory and character of the laſt viceroy of *Nordweg* could not properly be brought within the compaſs of this detail: theſe muſt come in, in another part, where they ſhall be drawn in proper colours and a fair light.

NOR-

NORTHERN REVOLUTIONS.

PART II.

To the METROPOLITES.

LETTER I.

IF you have read the preceding part of this work, you muſt have ſeen that *Danemarch* lived longer, in a more deeply diſtempered ſtate, than any other nation of the earth, whether antient or modern. You ſaw her kings, for a ſeries of reigns, and while they yet confeſſed the regal office but elective, continually, aſſiduouſly graſping at power for themſelves, and ſecuring it to their ſucceſſors. You ſaw them look upon themſelves as monarchs, though yet only at the head of a limited popular government, and act as if they were of divine appointment and hereditary, though they held their thrones but by the apparent conſent of the people. You ſaw them firſt forget, then contemn, and at length trample underfoot, the ſacred and inviolable principles of the inſtitution of the regal office. You ſaw them at laſt ſet up a power oppoſite to, and deſtructive of, the rights and liberties of the people, to which the name of Borſug, or prerogative was ſometime given. To ſupport this power, you ſaw the kings of falling *Danemarch*

have recourſe to the moſt illegal and unjuſt artifices, to all the moſt wicked projects, the moſt horrid devices, that the ſupreme council of hell, big with the deſtruction of mankind, could dictate. You ſaw theſe ſhameleſs potentates, in time, wage a continual combat with the very people, that in every ſenſe ſupported them. You ſaw the royal ſpendthrifts wantonly waſte and alienate the crown lands, the ſacred and unalienable patrimony of the regal office. You ſaw them then forced to depend for ſupport ſoly on the people, and yet ſquander with as laviſh an hand as ever. You ſaw the money thus drawn from the people, uſed in the ſubduing, in the deſtroying of that very people, in bribing not only their foreign, but what was ſtill more deſtructive, their home-born, enemies; in paying ſlaves and profligates, proſtitutes, of all denominations. You ſaw all men of ſenſe and virtue fly the court, to make room for ſuch as were alone qualified for the favourites of corrupt princes, the moſt thoroughpaced panders and paraſites. Of ſuch a ſtate of royalty, *Britons*, eminently virtuous, wiſe and free, can hardly conceive an idea: yet ſuch, by corruption, now became the regal ſtate of *Danemarch*!

You ſaw the ſenate, once the delegate council of the ſtates for the crown, now by the crown alone nominated, in *Danemarch*.——Such as the king was, ſuch were his ſenate. And, if by any chance, a good man remained, not yet ſtruck off the liſt, you might have ſeen him effectually laid aſide; for, from the moment he was found to dare to diſſent in any point from the prince and his creatures, from that inſtant, he was either ſtruck off the roll of ſenators, or never called to give his council. Such a ſenate as this, muſt have ever been prepared to aſſert and maintain the moſt boundleſs, the moſt lawleſs prerogatives, the pleaſure, of the prince; they ſhared his firſt favours and in time ſet up a ſovereign juriſdiction;

ſo-

ſovereign, indeed, it might well be called; becauſe they knew no law, but the will of their ſovereign. This was carried to a ſtill greater pitch, in the more remote ſtates: in *Nordweg*, the ſenate ſet up a power equal, or rather oppoſite, to that of the diet; they altered the bills of each of the ſtates of the nation at pleaſure, and even framed bills and ſent them as the bills of the ſtates to be approved by the king and his ſenate in *Danemarch*. Supreme evils, to which theſe happy realms are ſtrangers.

If you have been attentive to the firſt part of this work, you muſt have ſeen nobility made the wages of iniquity. Fools and knaves of fortune were alone deemed fit for theſe ſtations: the former were fit to do as they were bid, the latter to conduct them and perpetrate the fouleſt deeds for pay. The peers were ſo multiplied, that the chief places of the clergy, and burghers, fell into the hands of the needy younger children of the nobles, who thus in time got great power into their hands, looking upon the reſt of the ſtates as their dependants and vaſſals, and ſo treating them accordingly; till theſe, upon an occaſion, hereafter to be mentioned, became deſperate, and gave up their rights ſoly to the king, naturally preferring one tyrant to many. This curſe of peerage fell firſt and moſt heavily on *Nordweg*; where, not only every ſlave of fortune was made a peer, upon purchaſing it with money or ſervitude, but blank patents were given to certain concubines of the crown, who ſold them for a ſmall ſum, beſides what was paid in offices, under the title of fees of honour, to any body. Thus peers were multiplied for *Nordweg* beyond all meaſure: many of theſe had neither a foot of land, nor were ever ſeen in *Nordweg*. They were titular peers, with peerleſs titles. They had neither rank nor privilege, above a commoner, in *Danemarch*.

They ſerved, in tinſeled crowds, to ſwarm about a corrupt court, or to leſſen the dignity and weight of the commons, in *Danemarch*; by getting themſelves choſen into that eſtate, by the force of bribes. How ſuperlatively happy are theſe realms, in which no ſuch abuſe or confuſion of nobility could ever yet take place!

We muſt not forget the ſtate of the clergy. They were ever but men. And while virtue was the mover of all preferments in the ſtate, the clergy, it muſt be confeſſed, were eminently virtuous: though their virtne at beſt ſeemed to be only founded in their ambition and pride. They formerly, freely choſe their repreſentatives in the ſecond eſtate, in reſpect to virtue, ſenſe and learning purely, while theſe had any weight in the direction of the ſprings of government. But, when bad princes had corrupted the other eſtates, and openly avowed iniquity to be the meaſures of adminiſtration; men went into the church no longer from conſcientious motives, and gentlemen in general deſpiſed the reverend gown. Now, divinity, as it was yet called, became a moſt baſe and ſordid craft, a low and deſpicable trade. The gift of ſome of the firſt dignities was arrogated by the crown; ſome livings were veſted in lay-hands, who openly expoſed them to ſale; and though an oath was impoſed to prevent the clergy from purchaſing, yet it ſeemed as if only calculated for the more certain damnation of that order; who, in ſpite to the moſt ſolemn oath, as openly purchaſed their places, as any laymen did civil or military employments. From the ſole appointment of the king, the people could expect no better prieſts than peers; they were much of a piece. The purchaſers could not be better. And hence, the clerical office fell into ſuch low and infamous hands, that no gentleman, whoſe fortune

was not desperate, would suffer his son to go into holy orders, as it was yet called, and then, only upon having a great living or a bishoprick secured to him.

It has been known, that when a great man has had two creatures to provide for, and a small military office and an ecclesiastical benefice of considerable value, with high prospects, were in his gift; the favourites, each contending for the genteel, the military employment, have cast lots to determine who should be forced to degrade himself, by going into the church.

It is easy hence to conceive why, and how, this order, with all its dignities, was bestowed upon the most base, corrupt and ignorant slaves, that could be found. Real footmen, indeed, were not often put into orders; but footmen's children, in great families, were generally provided for in the church. Excisemen were seen ordained, and holy orders soon became as common wages of prostitution, as any other in the degenerate state. Who can be at a loss to judge, what representatives such men must have chosen, what representatives they could have deserved. They bought and sold their elections, as well as their ordinations, and they bought votes in the diet, with intent to sell them to the best bidder. And sell them indeed they did. But, as the crown most wanted and best could purchase their venal voices, they were ever at his disposal. So that he never could assume a power, that had not straightway, the sanction of the church. Whatever poor security, these, from their multitude, might have given for the freedom of the state, all means were removed by lessening their numbers, giving the bishops only, who were mostly appointed by the crown, seats in the diet, and incorporating them with the peers, whose pride and power cast these upskip lords at a great distance; except while they

proved

proved ſubſervient to the purpoſes of their principals. How thankful ſhould we of theſe happy kingdoms be, who never knew ſuch kings, or ſuch clergy, as theſe?

Every abuſe of this kind, which at any time took place in *Danemarch*, readily found footing, and was further extended, in *Nordweg*, whoſe biſhops were generally the offcaſt of the clergy of *Danemarch*.

This glaring degeneracy gave a man of ſpirit and humour, which in thoſe days happened to ariſe in *Nordweg*, an handle to tell the king, one day in his levee at *Copenhagen*, talking of ſome of his *Nordwegian* biſhops, 'that the people of *Nordweg* were well perſuaded of the wiſdom and paternal care of his majeſty in the choice of biſhops for their church; but that they had much cauſe to complain of the guides, who travelled with the pious fathers, that bore the royal patents: for, thoſe villains, upon finding theſe reverend ſages, true ſucceſſors of the primitive fiſhers, men of mean birth and great obſcurity, hardly ever failed of murdering the holy patentees; and then, taking the patents and perſonating the murdered prelates, were eaſily inducted into their ſees, as well as to their ſeats in the diet.' And confirmed the truth of the ſevere ſarcaſm, with aſſuring the king, 'that the *Daniſh* biſhops, ſet upon the benches in *Nordweg*, were in point of ſenſe, learning, education and morals, no better than the poſtmen or carriers in *Danemarch*.'

A plain inſtance of this deſpicable ſtate of the clergy is ſeen in the laſt primate of *Nordweg*, appointed in the reign of *Chriſtiern* IV. as an exception ſerves to prove a general rule. The primates of this kingdom for ages paſt were men of the meaneſt birth, education and capacity; men who never kept the company of gentlemen, before they were made biſhops; unleſs they had happened to be country ſchool-

maſters,

maſters, or ſervile chaplains in ſome rich families. Theſe were the fitteſt men to ſend into an inſlaved country. One of this caſt was uſually promoted to the primacy, and in the abſence of the viceroy, was uſually made one of the regency in *Nordweg*; being judged the moſt likely to be faithful to their truſt, ſervile to their principals. And ſo they generally proved, till they were overawed or over-reached by the ſplendor, power or craft of thoſe that were joined with them in the government, which were generally the mareſchal or high chancellor, and the Haupt, or preſident of the chamber or houſe of commons.

The laſt primate appointed in this reign was *Beeſingſtein*, by birth and education, by ſenſe and learning, a compleat gentleman. This may partly be ſeen by his entering into the church, through neceſſity or chance, not choice; as we ſhall juſt now explain. He ſpent a handſome patrimony in the company of young men of the beſt families and fortunes of *Danemarch*. He made connexions with them at the univerſity, which continued his whole life, and ſtrengthened them, by travelling and ſeeing moſt of the courts of *Europe*, with others.

After a tour of this kind, with a young nobleman of parts, he returned to *Danemarch*, an accompliſhed gentleman, but a bankrupt. The count of *Dorenſaght*, the father of this young nobleman was appointed viceroy of *Nordweg*, as his ſon returned from his travels. The count was a man of ſenſe and diſcernment, and hardly wanted the recommendation of his ſon to induce him to take the young *Beeſingſtein* into his train, with intent to provide for him in *Nordweg*. But, he did not take him alone; men going in that great employment were uſually incumbered with attendants of this kind. But there was but this and an other well-

bred

bred young gentleman, of the name of *Gluſchingburgh*, that demanded any degree of the count's intimate regards.

Soon after the count entered upon his government, a commiſſion in the army and a church benefice became vacant and in his gift. Now, theſe two young gentlemen were intent upon genteel civil or good military employments. But, the count, unwilling to let ſlip a favourable opportunity of doing ſomething for theſe deſerving favourites, called them and told them what he had in his power, and recommended to them to accept of what offered, determining among themſelves, who ſhould take the gown and who the ſword.

Each was willing to go into the army, but both abhorred the church. Neither was in a condition to decline the offer, and ſo they reſolved to determine their fate, like criminals reſerved for mercy, by the die. The higheſt caſt was to win the ſword, the loweſt, to loſe it and fall into the church. *Gluſchingburgh* caſt firſt and threw ſeven. *Beeſingſtein*, with fear and trembling, threw next; and, when he found his caſt but five, curſed and ſwore he had loſt; but not being enabled by fortune to refuſe any thing that offered, reſolved to accept of it, if his patron preſs'd, which he accordingly did.

The conſequence of this was, that while *Gluſchingburgh* got no higher than a ſubaltern, *Beeſingſtein* was a general officer in the church militant, a biſhop. And before the one got above the rank of a field officer, the other got to be the commander in chief in the church, an archbiſhop and a primate.

It was hardly to be imagined, that this young gentleman, well verſed in every branch of polite literature, and poliſhed by a long intimacy with the beſt bred men of his age and time in *Danemarch*, ſhould

ſhould immediately break off his connexions with the claſs he ſo lately left, and all at once, put on the formal gravity and authority, affected by the generality of his robe. He juſtly judged there could be no offence in keeping company with gentlemen of the claſs he lately left. He aſſumed no pomp, was eaſy of acceſs, affable and courteous to all. Ready to do every act of humanity and charity to thoſe that needed them. His table was plenty and his houſe open to all his acquaintance, and ſtrangers were not unwelcome. In ſhort, his enemies, which in time were unaccountably multiplied, were, at the height of their malevolence, forced to confeſs, there never was known a man more fully to diſcharge the ſeveral functions of his vocation than young *Beeſingſtein*: He was a good preacher, a good neighbour, a good friend, a good patron, a good landlord, a good prelate; nor have any of his enemies been able to charge him with a ſingle fault, a neglect or an overſight, in any of theſe duties, during his whole life: this no man dared to do, becauſe his general conduct muſt publicly give ſuch defamers the lie. See *Carlowingius, von des Biſchoffen.*

But, other opportunities and means were found to blaſt this gentleman's reputation, in an inſtance and manner, againſt which it was impoſſible to take any kind of defence.

For ages paſt, the primate was always one of the regency of *Nordweg*, and from his rank, the firſt in commiſſion. This primate looked narrowly into the affairs of government, and ſoon became maſter of the ſubject. He now ſaw, that his principal, who was alſo his great patron, to whom he owed all he poſſeſſed, was but a ſort of titular viceroy, thro' the crafty influence of the Haupt, or preſident of the commons, who, inconſiſtently worming himſelf into the miniſtry, managed all the preceding viceroys of his time

and their ſubſtitutes, in the regency. *Beeſingſtein* thought it his duty to keep up the influence and authority of his principal, according to the received modes of government in that corrupted country. And therefore, entered into aſſociations and formed connexions with men, likely ſo ſerve the cauſe.

The Haupt, *Boleſtadt*, could not bear this; and ſtarting ſome popular queſtion, in which, neither *Beeſingſtein* nor his principal, by their inſtructions from the miniſtry of *Danemarch*, could join; this furniſhed him with means to make both the count and primate hateful to the public, particularly the latter, on whom they charged the baſeſt crime, that ever debaſed human nature, without the ſhadow of grounds. In this, ſome of the invidious brethren of the robe joined; while the populace, ever more ready to ſwallow and to propagate evil than good reports, with foul mouths threw out every infamous abuſe of this injured man, whoſe ſole crime was too zealous, perhaps too implicit, an attachment to the intereſt and to the inſtructions of his maſter.

The popular cries at length reached the throne. So that the king, who did not yet think it right to break thro' forms with a people ſo obſequious to his will, as till now, to be ever ready to do any thing required by him or his miniſters; thought it beſt to ſend over a new viceroy, who, to reſtore the Haupt, *Boleſtadt* and his party to their uſual temper and obſequiouſneſs, found it neceſſary, however unjuſt, to leave the primate out of the regency. Such was the treatment given the firſt gentleman that had for ſome ages ſat in that ſee! Thus was his gratitude and zealous attachment to his patron, and ſtrict fidelity to his charge, rewarded in *Nordweg*! Thus were gentlemen found as unfit for the church, as prelates or prieſts are for civil government, in free ſtates. The ſhining ornaments, that now do

honour

honour to the holy church, as well as to their ſacred ſovereign in *Ireland*, give that happy people cauſe of great exultation and gratitude to their prince, for bleſſing them with ſuch worthy paſtors, ſuch pious prelates, as now watch over their ſpiritual and temporal concerns, lookiug narrowly to the very fleeces of their flocks, in that flouriſhing kingdom.

If you take but a curſory review of the ſtate of the commons of *Danemarch*, in the days of her deluſion, you will find them much of a piece with the reſt of her ſtates; mean, deſpicable, dependant, ſervile. Corruption had long effaced all ſenſe of morality and public ſpirit among them. They were left poor, in compariſon to what they formerly had been, by the introduction of luxury, which taught them wants, unknown to their moderate and frugal anceſtors. They had totally forgot, that they were the creatures, the choſen delegates, the ſervants of the people, from whom they once received wages, to compenſate their expences and troubles in attending the diet. Theſe conſiderations were now entirely laid aſide. The two eſtates of burghers and peaſants were now, ſometime, united into one houſe of commons. Into this, no one, it is true, was admitted without an election, or the form of an election. But, there was hardly a ſtadt or burgh, or any diſtrict, that had a right to return a member, that was not made a property of, by the crown, by ſome lord, or accidentally remaining rich commoner: for, tho' being a commoner, for ſome years, ſeldom failed of impoveriſhing a man, that did not inrich himſelf by getting into public employments; yet, ſome few, by the death of parents or relations, and more by offices and penſions, got rich, and for a while, remained in the commons, till the crown thought fit and neceſſary for its purpoſes to enoble them. And as faction prevailed in the houſe, the commons

took upon them to qualify or diſqualify any man for election, or to confirm, or reject, or even to make elections; regardleſs of all laws and the rights of the legal electors.

However, men of deſperate fortunes and adventurous minds, were the moſt ſollicitous to get into the diet. And, as he that could get the greateſt number of commoners elected or nominated into the diet, was ſure of the firſt or greateſt employment at court; ſo he, who was able to ſpeak the beſt, to make the moſt inſidious declamations in the houſe, and that was the moſt artful, hardy, thorough-paced, the moſt compleat villain, in the houſe, was ſure of being made the firſt miniſter of ſtate, the governor of the commons.

It was not unuſual for ſome of theſe, upon being appointed to the prime miniſterial office, which often eclipſed the regal, to write circular letters to the other commons, importing, that the management and conduct of the houſe of commons, with an office, attended with the keeping of the purſe-ſtrings of the public treaſury, was committed to their hands, and therefore, hoping for the attendance and concurrence of the addreſſed members, upon aſſurance of a ſhare in the ſpoils. Such letters have by accident fallen into miſtaken hands, or ſometimes miſcarried, and been produced and proved on a miniſter in the houſe. Yet, he had ſo effectually ſecured his party, that a few angry complainants of ſuch a violation of the privilege of the members, and ſuch a dangerous abuſe of the public, could not get ſuch a miniſter diſturbed, much leſs puniſhed. Think what would be the conſequence, could ſuch a thing be but attempted, in *Britain* or in *Ireland*!

As the encouragement from the crown, to active as well as to paſſive commoners, was very great, as it always ſecured to a certain conſiderable number,

always

always enough to make a majority upon any queſtion, great employments, or penſions, for them and their kindred or friends; the wages of the ſeveral electors were ſet at naught, and candidates now found it worth the while to buy the votes of thoſe, who once paid the elected for accepting their ſervice.

Elections now became a trade, univerſally. Fortunate was the man, that was abſolute, or could direct the votes, in any ſtadt or burgh, or in any diſtrict of the country. Well was it with him, and happy ſure was he. And having a vote here, was not only in law, but alſo in fact, a freehold; that is, it was worth more or leſs in proportion to the number of voters for the place, who frequently got from five to ten, twenty or thirty crowns each, for their votes, and ſome that cunningly ſtuck out, or kept off, till votes became wanted of either ſide, often got as far as an hundred or more crowns for a ſingle vote. And theſe crowns were of no leſs value in *Danemarch*, in thoſe days, than guineas are now with us. Thus, every man learned the price of the place, he purpoſed to repreſent, before he offered himſelf a candidate. So that the price of every elector, from the higheſt to the loweſt, was known to thoſe that dealt in the election trade.

Then, the miniſter, the governor or manager of the commons, always caſt his eye upon the candidate. And, if full aſſurance of his diſpoſition to anſwer all the purpoſes of the miniſter, were not given; the purſe-ſtrings of the treaſury were thrown looſe, the public treaſure brought forth, and profuſely laviſhed, in auctioning the election. So that if the court-oppoſed candidate carried his point, the victory coſt him ſo dear, that he was eaſily bought and ſecured by a penſion ever after. And thus the manager never failed of ſecuring a majority, one way or other, in the houſe.

houſe. How ſhould theſe countries exult, where ſuch corruption never was, nor ever can be, known!

The miniſter of *Danemarch*, it is true, was not always ſecure of his men. The members ſoon ſaw, that oppoſition alone gave them weight. Therefore, ſuch as were not taken into the miniſter's ſervice, and gratified to their mind, frequently revolted, and ſhewed themſelves according to their different talents. Some could ſay ay or no, as they were bid: Theſe could hope only for ſmall places or penſions. Some could make ſhort motions, or ſecond thoſe of others: Theſe were entitled to genteel employments about the court. Some could read and write; take orations out of books; form ſpeeches from them; get ſuch ſpeeches upon particular occaſions by heart, and in the houſe, ſpeak them, like bad actors upon the ſtage: Theſe were qualified for ſecretaries of ſtate, and for ſome embaſſies, if they could ſpeak *French*. To theſe, they in their turns ſucceeded, or were given hopes of ſucceeding. And never failed of being admitted to the moſt honourable intimacies of the ſenate, with or without penſions, as their fortunes required it; but, were called to attend in that council, only as the miniſter judged expedient. Some there were that could ſpeak artfully and powerfully, making all the houſe, and thoſe without doors, believe them wiſe and great, unalterably honeſt and true to their truſt. Out of this claſs, the firſt and every other great miniſter muſt be appointed: for, the crown thought it not right to break with the commons; well ſeeing, that he could not fail in due time of gaining their ſanction, under the form of law, to confirm and perpetuate any tyranny, he or his miniſters could deviſe.

Thus continued the affairs of the commons for ſome time, juſt before the diſſolution of the ſtate of *Danemarch*. There was ſcarce an elector in the kingdom,

that did not ſell his vote, for ſome private conſideration. He could not therefore have a repreſentative. There was not a commoner, whether burgher or peaſant, that did not one way or other purchaſe his ſeat, or that had it not given to him, by the miniſter or ſome other ſuperior, upon certain terms. If he bought his ſeat, he could be no man's repreſentative: the ſeat became his private property. And he might make the moſt of his bargain. If he accepted the ſeat upon terms; he was not free, and muſt therefore follow his leaders, as they liſted.

This was the ſad ſtate of *Danemarch*, before the fall. Every thing, every man bore his ſtated price. Public offices were ſet up in *Copenhagen*, where the rates of individual, or whole communities of, electors were aſcertained to any purchaſer. And the price of the commoner was laid down at court, according to his qualifications as above. Church-livings and even biſhopricks, as well as nobility, were as openly ſet to ſale. While the purchaſer was taught, to what his vote or ſpeech in the diet may intitle him, according to his qualifications, intereſts, connexions, *&c.* Such were the ſtates of the electors of the commons, of the clergy, nobles and king of *Danemarch* and *Nordweg*: From ſuch a king, peers, clergy, commoners, and electors, good Lord deliver *Great Britain* and flouriſhing *Ireland*!

LETTER II.

IF among the few of my happy countrymen, that can ſpare time from their pleaſures to read or think with the leaſt degree of attention upon any ſerious matter; the former letters on this ſubject were peruſed, and with this ſhort recapitulation, compared; it would appear, that the head and members

members of the ſtate of *Danemarch* were now become ſo corrupt, that the principles of the inſtitution of every part of the legiſlature were now ſo perverted, ſo reverſed, that what was intended for the ſource of life and health to the community, became its bane. The father lived upon the blood of the children. The children ſpoiled, plundered and devoured one another. The king that was to govern mildly by laws, became a tyrant of the worſt and moſt dangerous kind, a tyrant under the ſanction of the law, a tyrant not to be legally oppoſed. The law, that was the ſubjects defence, his beſt inheritance, became a ſtumbling block and a pit for his deſtruction, by the perverſion of the legiſlature, and the corruption of the diſpenſers and executioners of the law. The ſources were polluted, the ſtreams by them ſupplied were foul of courſe. The diet, the commons in particular, the great ſafe-guard, to which the people truſted for the ſecurity of themſelves and lateſt poſterity, and that, from the firſt foundation of the conſtitution ; now, forſook and betrayed their maſters and their ward, led the people into irretrievable ſlavery, diſgrace and ſhame; while they were thoughtleſs of aught but their pleaſures, and each was engaged in a private, ſelf-intereſted ſcheme, ſeparate from, if not oppoſite to, that of the public.

Before I attempt to amuſe you with the particular narration of the ſubverſion of the antient gothic government of *Danemarch*, let me take up a little of your time from other trifling, by giving you the hiſtory and characters of ſome perſons, who played principal parts in the diſmal tragedies of *Danemarch* and *Nordweg*.

As *Chriſtian* IV. grew old, he grew avaricious, and ſeemed more ſolicitous to gratify this paſſion, than to compleat his ſchemes of overturning the conſtitution.

conſtitution. It is probable he judged the great change could not be wrought, without ſcattering among his partiſans, the treaſure, which he had, with much pains and care, not without ſhamefully curtailing the ordinary expences of his houſehold, amaſſed. He reigned longer than moſt of his predeceſſors. About the latter part of his life, he was often involuntarily engaged in wars, which his penury would not permit him to ſupport; for, rather than miſs the opportunities of heaping up treaſure, which peace gave; tho' his enemies allow him to have had as much perſonal bravery as any man; he choſe to patch up a peace at any rate, or would content himſelf with a convention, a ſuſpenſion of arms, or a neutrality, tho' it afforded no better than a palliative proſpect, rather than be interrupted by the moſt honourable and glorious war in the favourite task of filling his coffers. By this means, he gave the enemies of *Danemarch* every advantage over him; and he was known to bear the greateſt inſults, and to put up with the groſſeſt oppreſſions, even the robberies, of the ſubjects of *Danemarch* and *Nordweg*, before he could be perſuaded to wage war in their defence.

Whenever he was forced to enter into war, he did it with ſo much parſimony, reluctance, and delay, that his fleets and armies were worſe manned, equipped and ſupplied, and ſlower than ever before was known; and becauſe he would not properly pay for intelligence, the enemy generally gained all advantages of him. So that when he declared an offenſive war, he was ſo ill prepared, that he was forced to content himſelf with acting meanly on the defenſive: while the enemy, taking the advantage of theſe weakneſſes, inſulted him often into war; frightened him with fears of an invaſion, took his frontiers, deſtroyed the national trade, and after

waſting the public treaſure, or running them immenſely into debt, forced him to make a ſhameful and deſtructive peace.

One object only ſeemed to ingroſs his care, and make him ſometimes risk the ſafety of his perſon. He never loved nor could love the *Danes*, and he heartily hated and deſpiſed the *Nordwegians*; tho' they were the beſt affected ſubjects he had. The object of his political regard was the dutchy of *Holſtein*. There, he was abſolute in every ſenſe; there, hereditary ſovereign. And had he been able, with eaſe and at a ſmall expence, to make himſelf deſpotic in his regal dominions, they might hope to have got ſome ſhare in his regards.

His affection for *Holſtein* made him run all riſks to go thither, even in the midſt of wars, and to throw himſelf into dangers, he could never think of hazarding for *Danemarch* and *Nordweg*. The utmoſt neceſſities for his preſence in *Danemarch*, could not keep him from expoſing his perſon to the perils of the ſea and the ambuſcades of enemies, to fly to the defence of his threatned dutchy. This has more than once coſt him dear. He loſt the affections of his *Daniſh* ſubjects by it; but that he did not much value, as they were under the direction of the diet, and the diet entirely under his. He was once ſurrounded by the enemy, and moſt narrowly eſcaped by the bravery of ſome of the *Daniſh* and *Nordwegian* armies, that attended him. Yet, when he has judged his favourite dutchy in danger, while that with *Danemarch* was engaged in one common, confederate war; he has made a neutrality with the enemy for the dutchy, regardleſs of his kingdoms. And ſo gave inconteſtible proof at once, that he held one people much dearer than the other, and two offices incompatible with each other: yet made the greater yield to the moſt inconſiderable. Who could

could controul, or find fault with this conduct?— The biſhops and the multiplied peers were his creatures; the people ſold their voices to the commons, and the voices of the commons were purchaſed, tho' with the public treaſure, by the king.

His penury towards the decline of life, became ſo exceſſive, that he curtailed many of the inferior officers of his court. At one time, none but members of the diet of the firſt rank, held an employment entire. Almoſt every body beſides ſuch, had a partner in the profits of his office; and this partner was often but ſome nominal tool, whoſe name was uſed to ſkreen the receiving the pay for the king's private purſe. This could only be remedied in the diet. But the diet now belonged by purchaſe to the king.

This avaricious diſpoſition, induced him to neglect all his fine palaces in the country, and to let them run into ruins; becauſe he would not be at the expence of keeping tables there for his courtiers, according to antient cuſtom. Cooks however were a part of the antient eſtabliſhment. And cooks were therefore named. But, they were kept on board-wages, for the firſt time, ſuch a thing was ever heard of in *Danemarch*. He would not allow himſelf to ſupply the place of furniture, worn out in his inhabited palace with new. But ſtripped one palace always to keep the neceſſary furniture in another. And even the meat left at his own table, was ſent to a perſon, who contracted for it, and publicly bought and ſold the proviſions, which formerly were given to feed the indigent.

Nor did his penury ſtop here. A mercenary diſpoſition ſeized the whole court, from the higheſt to the loweſt. The king's palace was not only a cook's ſhop, where proviſions were dreſſed and ſold, to one man only, but wine was publicly ſold there without exciſe or licence, which was ſaid to be now

ſaved out of the eſtabliſhed allowance for the houſhold, as it was formerly conſumed in hoſpitable houſe-keeping. Then, every thing about the court, the king's perſon not excepted, was let out for ſhew; that is, any perſon who had a curioſity, might purchaſe a ſight of any thing in or about the court. The houſe and all its furniture were ſhewn in this manner, and printed bills were handed publicly about, enumerating the parts and value of the crown jewels, and ſetting forth at what price they were hired out for ſhew. There was alſo a price fixed on the ſight of the king's collection of wild beaſts, which did not exceed a few lions, wolves, tigers, monkeys, and bears. And the rate of the ſight of every apartment of the caſtle and armory was in the like manner fixed. Theſe ſhewed the genius and diſpoſition of the court and the members of which it was compoſed. Mercenary maſters muſt make mercenary ſervants.

He quarrelled with his eldeſt ſon, only for a pretext to keep him at a diſtance, and to ſtint him in his allowance. By which means, he drove the prince to the diſagreeable neceſſity of borrowing money; for which, he was unhappily obliged to ſome of the worſt enemies of his houſe.

Theſe things conſidered, it is no wonder the king was at one time worth upwards of twenty million of crowns, while the nation was about five times that ſum in debt, the greateſt part of which was one way or other contracted for the defence of *Holſtein*, and the ſupport of the family of a king, who hoarded up this quantity of treaſure, regardleſs of the debts and diſtreſſes of the people.

It can not then be wondered, that this king outlived the affections of all his people. Notwithſtanding his partiality to his *Holſteiners*, they ſaw his love was of the ſelfiſh, ſordid caſt, and they could

not regard him. And his contempt of the people and the laws of *Danemarch* and *Nordweg*, made all thinking men drop their regards to him; and inſtead of loving him, as they once did with filial piety, the moſt he could now expect from the beſt affected, was as much love as the law required, no more; while his ſordid penury made even his mercenaries ſooner than ordinary forſake him, and cauſed the whole populace at length moſt heartily to deſpiſe him. They forgot how mercenary, how venal they were at home; yet ſaw this hateful vice deform the majeſty of their ſovereign.

He was the firſt king of *Danemarch*, that was ſeen in public, eſpecially in going to the diet, without the acclamations of the people. This unaffected mark of public regard, he poſſeſſed for a while. But, as ſoon as his diſpoſition was known to the multitude, all public marks of reſpect ceaſed, and the guards alone ſecured him from inſults. Not that the corrupt populace was ſenſible enough to be affected at his overturning and perverting the diet, but becauſe his revenues did not circulate in the uſual channel. He could not help being mortified by this neglect; and upon expreſſing it to his minions, they amuſed him with aſſigning ſome idle cauſe; aſſuring him it would never be the caſe again. So, to verify their words, and to keep him in temper, for their private purpoſes, the chief miniſter and others in the ſecret, ever after hired a mob to huzza for the king, whenever he appeared in public. This was well known; for no porter could be had for the ordinary buſineſs of the town, whenever the king went to the diet. And the hirelings made no ſecret of their engagements—But, gave it as an apology for their abſenting themſelves from their ordinary vocations, that they were obliged to attend the court; that was, to huzza the king to keep him in

good

good humour, and leſſen his deſire to go to *Holſtein*: for which, they declared their pay, and whence it came. So that it was no longer a ſecret.

Thus the poor, wretched king lived too long. He laid the foundation for the deſtruction of the national conſtitution, indeed raiſed the ſuperſtructure to ſome heigth. But, whether his avarice growing predominant, or his quarrel with his ſon, or both conſpired to divert him from compleating his purpoſes, is not eaſily determined. Certain it is, he left it to his ſucceſſor to finiſh, and died as he had long lived the moſt deſpicable, the moſt deſpiſed king, that ever diſgraced the *Daniſh* throne. Thus, a bad king makes bad ſubjects, and corrupt ſubjects can never hope to have a good king.

He was at war in his turn with all the neighbouring powers; but never was enough reſpected, to have one firm allie, or to have made one advantagious or honourable peace. The power, with whom he kept longeſt in alliance, was the emperor. But, againſt him, he was forced into a confederate war, which coſt his ſubjects much wealth, and the king, his faith and honour. After exhauſting the wealth of the ſubjects; after ſtopping the ſources of their wealth, by the loſs of trade and commerce; and after making himſelf and his people appear contemptible in the eyes of the world, he was forced to patch up an inglorious peace; after which, he lived in retirement and obſcurity, conducted like a child in leading-ſtrings, by his miniſters and a favourite concubine, and at laſt fell into a profound ſleep, in the year 1640, from whence he will hardly awake till the laſt trump ſounds.

LETTER

LETTER III.

DURING this deſpicable reign, there were many outrages committed upon the people. Little offenders, thieves and petty robbers never eſcaped; while great offenders, raviſhers, murderers, and robbers of the public, were never brought to puniſhment, unleſs they were mean and poor. The populace were diſarmed under pretence of preſerving the game for their lords. Marriages between the nobility and commonalty were rendered impracticable, and thoſe of the commonalty with one another were laid under difficulties and reſtraints. But, as if it were for the open encouragement of whoredom, hoſpitals were built for the delivery of pregnant women, and for the reception and ſupport of infants, without diſtinction.

Soldiers were ſlaves for life. Which made it difficult to get men to inliſt. And the king did not dare to truſt to the raiſing the powers of the country in the militia, according to antient cuſtom. Theſe put him under the neceſſity of preſſing men into the ſervice. Hence freemen were taken by force, fettered, dragged to noiſome gaols, regardleſs of the laws, and the cries of wives and children, and compelled to liſt as ſoldiers for life. What was to be expected from ſuch armies?

The ſailors were in as bad a ſituation: they were kept, while wanted, and then left to ſtarve for want of employment, whenever peace was made. Theſe poor men beſides, were hardly ever paid above once in ſeveral years, and then ſo badly, that half their pay was ſunk between the officers employed in paying it. And that of thoſe that died or were killed in the ſervice, was hardly ever to be recovered by their widows, orphans, or other heirs.

Theſe

Theſe difficulties made ſailors avoid the royal navy at the peril of ſtarving. They were yet the braveſt people in the realm, and had long been juſtly deemed the ſupport of the nation. But, the bad returns made for their ſervice, made them generally decline and avoid it. Here again, power was ſtretched to inſlave all this claſs of men. They were ſeized, as well by land as by ſea, like criminals, and by an armed force, preſſed into the ſervice; regardleſs of law, of the common rights of men, and the lamentations of their forlorn families. And thus was the fleet to be manned, and hardly otherwiſe to be ſupplied, the laſt years of this moſt hateful reign.

The flattering hiſtorians of this reign, writing in the life time of the king, aſcribed to him wiſdom and every princely and private virtue. Being talked to on the poſture of affairs, all men were forced to confeſs that there was not the leaſt appearance of common ſenſe or common honeſty in any part of the adminiſtration: all was one great continued lie: It was evident, that the king peremptorily refuſed to pay his father's debts, and but tardily and ungracefully paid his own. That knaves of loweſt degree were loaded with titles and preferments; while men that dared to ſpeak truth, in the ſenate or the diet, were ſure of being diſcarded, and becoming the king's greateſt averſion. It was likewiſe no ſecret, that he never fulfilled his word in any thing, beyond granting a title, to any man. If he promiſed a place, he was ever found to fail. Yet, were men perverſe or fooliſh enough to impute all theſe weakneſſes and palpable breaches of the royal word to the miniſters; who in ſome inſtances impoſed upon the king, depriving him of the uſe of his common ſenſes; in others, reſtrained him, moſt inſolently telling him, that he muſt not give

ſuch

ſuch or ſuch an employment or commiſſion, as he promiſed; but, that, if he expected the buſineſs of the crown ſhould be carried on to any purpoſe, it muſt be conferred on lord ſuch a one or commoner ſuch a one, or on ſome friend or dependant of theirs, to ſilence their oppoſition in the diet, and let the meaſures of the adminiſtration be effectually compleated.

Was there any thing like good ſenſe or integrity in all this? Yet ſuch were the meaſures of the adminiſtration during this whole reign. And ſo deſpicable did theſe make the king in the end, that before he died, he could not get a perſon of any diſtinction to accept of the moſt important employment about the court. And it was no wonder, for ſuch unſteadineſs, ſuch frequent revolutions were never known in the affairs of the *Ottoman Porte*, as in the court of *Danemarch:* to-day, upon the remonſtrance of ſome favourite ſlave, one miniſter was taken into place; to-morrow, he was diſcarded, and ſomebody, whoſe countenance the king liked better, was taken into his place. And perhaps the next day, hearing of ſome clamours raiſed in the diet, that threatened to unravel his ſecret ſchemes, the king has been frightened into taking into his greateſt intimacy, in one of the firſt employments, a man that of all others he hated the moſt violently and implacably. This has he been forced to do, when the member, knowing his own value, has been able to lay down, to preſcribe to the king, the terms upon which alone he would enter into the ſervice. Yet, when ſuch a miniſter has laboured to reſtore long-confounded matters to rights, and conducted himſelf, in all appearance, more to the honour of his maſter and the general good and ſatisfaction of the people, than any man that had gone before him; the king, upon finding a factious, crafty commoner able to create new diſturbances, and to leſſen the in-

fluence of this apparently honeſt and approved miniſter, in the diet; has as precipitately diſmiſſed, as he took him into employment.—Now, had any thing like this ever happened in *Britain*, under any of our kings; who could be found to flatter ſuch a king with the falſe attributes of wiſdom or virtue? Surely, not one. Yet, ſuch was the king of *Danemarch* that laid the plan for overthrowing the liberties of his kingdoms, though he wanted fortitude to carry his ſchemes fully into execution. And yet this king was by his flatterers proclaimed moſt wiſe and virtuous, in *Danemarch* and *Nordweg*, during his life. Abandoned ſlaves!—How unhappy is the fate of kings, who ſeldom know better friends than falſe, deluſive, deſtructive flatterers!

When this was the character of the firſt mover of the great wheel of government, it is eaſy to judge who were the fitteſt for his miniſtry and favourites. When the head of any ſtate is thus corrupt and deſpicable, it is eaſy to conceive what the members muſt univerſally be. But, bad as the head appears, his ſubſtitutes, and the members remoteſt from it, were ſtill worſe in all reſpects, than the original or thoſe nearer the ſource of motion.

This has ever been the caſe in all governments, as well antient as modern. Though tyranny was deviſed at the head, it was found ſafeſt to make the experiment and introduce it at a diſtance. Therefore, the moſt remote territories have generally been the firſt inſlaved. And if the ſame ſchemes that ſucceeded in inſlaving the remoter members, were not immediately, ſucceſsfully tranſplanted, as was generally the caſe, to the capital; yet they never failed of creeping, like a ſlow, but ſure peſtilence, and ſeizing the head and vital parts of the conſtitution.

Thus, when a general deluge of immorality, effeminacy and corruption overwhelmed the political principles and manners of the *Danes* and *Nordwegians* in both kingdoms, and effaced all traces of public ſpirit therein; it could not be difficult to eſtabliſh any tyranny in the kingdom remoter from the chief ſeat of government.

The luxuries, the follies and the vices of the *Danes* being tranſplanted into *Nordweg*; by the aſſiduous culture of governors and miniſters, ſelf-intereſted in robbing, corrupting the morals, duping and inſlaving the people, they increaſed multiplied and throve exceedingly.

Leaſt the adminiſtration in *Danemarch* might be reproached with a remoter colony's being more free or proſperous, conſtant care was taken to make the *Nordwegians* in all reſpects more ſlaviſh and wretched than the *Danes*. As a warning to other ſtates, and as a teſt, by which they may gueſs at the ſtate of their political health; before I explain the actual diſſolution of the *Daniſh* government, I ſhall point out the immediate means, by which *Nordweg* was firſt deſtroyed, and then ſhew how and why *Danemarch* ſhortly after ſhared the ſame fate.

LETTER IV.

IT has been already obſerved, that the treaſury of *Nordweg* was looked upon as a kind of private purſe to the kings of *Danemarch*, ever ſince the two kingdoms fell under one common head. Since then, *Nordweg* never was comforted with the ſight of her king; except when, through neceſſity, he happened to be viſited by *Frederick* duke of *Holſtein*, for the more effectual expulſion of

Chriſtiern II. and the ſubduction of his followers and friends.

Since this time, all ſchemes of *Daniſh* policy, with reſpect to this people, tended to impoveriſh, to oppreſs, to break and inſlave them. Curſes were laviſhed on them by the *Daniſh* miniſtry, whenever the name of *Nordweg* occurred; and that not only in words of execration, but in deeds of cruelty. It rarely happened that any ruler was ſent among them, that was not intended like the firſt king, which the Almighty gave in his wrath, as a curſe to a ſlaviſh and perverſe generation. And if the people murmured at their oppreſſions, the complainant's mouth was effectually ſtopt, by being told, the court would not be troubled with the brawlings of a reſtleſs, turbulent people, whom they wiſhed never to have had being, and would totally abandon, were it not for fear of their country's falling into the hands of *Sweedland*, who might uſe it to the prejudice of *Danemarch*. Yet, who would believe it, were it not well atteſted? this abuſed and diſtreſſed people, to the laſt retained a ſtrict regard to loyalty!

The kings of *Danemarch* long ſaw that their deſpotiſm was firſt to be eſtabliſhed in *Nordweg*, and thence, at a convenient time, to be introduced into *Danemarch*. The averſion which the *Danes* always bore the *Nordwegians*, made every attempt of inſlaving theſe objects of their jealouſy and envy, not only ſafe but eaſy and generally ſucceſsful.

It was not yet judged quite convenient to break openly with the *Nordwegians*. Therefore appearances were kept up; they were fed on forms, robbed of eſſentials. Their diets were regularly continued in form. But, they were created and corrupted in the ſame manner with the *Daniſh* diet. Every viceroy, ſince the time of *Frederick* I. eſpecially,

cially, was ſent with deſign, if not with inſtructions, to exhauſt their treaſure, and to ſubvert their liberties. While the *Daniſh* miniſtry could with eaſe ſecure a majority in the different ſtates of the diet, which they had brought to the ſame model with that of *Danemarch*, to carry any bill or queſtion deſired, or to acquieſce ſilently under any new impoſition from the government; all went on in the regular form. And in theſe, they had the leſs oppoſition; becauſe they were more than once fatally given to underſtand, that if they did not grant or ſubmit to any thing required, the *Daniſh* diet would paſs a law to bind them, regardleſs of their conſent, and the ſtanding army ſhould enforce and execute what the *Daniſh* judges preſiding in the *Nordwegian* tribunals, might not be able to effect.

It would be endleſs to recite the inſtances of theſe facts, that might be produced. Let it ſuffice to ſhew, that laws made by the corrupt diets of *Danemarch* were daily impoſed upon the people of *Nordweg*, without their conſent. And that the king or his viceroy might at any time drain the public treaſury, aſſigning no better cauſe than the royal, or, which was ſtill ſtronger, the miniſterial pleaſure.

So fully was the meaſure of the corruption of *Nordweg* compleated, that in upwards of ſixty years, the crown never failed of carrying a favourite point in the diet but two, which coſt the people very dear.

The one was a ſcheme for ſaving the court the trouble of calling a diet in *Nordweg*, by granting additional taxes for twenty-one years. To carry this into execution, baron *Teretrackt* was ſent viceroy, about the year, 1628. He was a man of deep cunning and diſſimulation. His countenance was ſmooth and open; his mien and deportment was free, eaſy and plauſible; his ſpeech mellifluous, inſidious. His purpoſes

poſes were dark and miniſterial, well hid under artful diſguiſes. And though his heart was naturally falſe and treacherous, he could be reſolute and ſincere, where it ſerved his ſordid purpoſes.

He readily found out that hoſpitality and affability were cheap and effectual bribes to the *Nordwegians*. He was profuſe in both; and by theſe, and being free and eaſy of acceſs, he was readily believed artleſs and undeſigning, open, generous and honeſt, though nothing was more foreign to his ſoul.

It was remarked, that he never refuſed any man a favour; but it was found he promiſed the ſame thing, as a ſecret, to many, and fulfilled his engagements but with a few, and that only to ſave appearances and keep up the expectations of other dupes, till his purpoſes were anſwered.

When he had wrought the public into a good opinion of him, and bribed the whole diet, at leaſt with promiſes; he carried ſeveral ſmall points ſmoothly. Then, he opened the great ſcheme, to obtain a grant of certain taxes for upwards of twenty years. But, this was diſcovered by a few ſhrewd ones, to be intended to make it unneceſſary to call diets in that time. Alarmed at this, ſome ruſticated members, that ſeldom attended the diet, were apprized of it, came to town and foiled the whole machination by a few unexpected voices.

Upon this ſcheme's failing, baron *Teretrackt* was recalled; and the count of *Dorenſaght* ſent to hold the next diet, in the baron's ſtead, about the year 1630. He was a nobleman of an antient family and conſiderable fortune; a man of ſenſe; and few men about the court had a reputation leſs ſullied; though none was leſs intitled to any degree of fair or patriot fame. He entered into the manners of the *Nordwegians*, and gained their hearts by unaffected affability, generoſity

roſity and hoſpitality. And further, to teſtify an unfeigned love for the people, he had two ſons brought from the univerſity of *Copenhagen* to be entered in that of *Bergen*; where they took the degrees, and one of them particularly made a better figure in learning than is often found among youth of his rank. And at the ſame time, gave ſome of his daughters in marriage, to ſome of the richeſt commoners in the kingdom.

This diſpoſition could not fail of ingratiating the whole family with the public, and raiſing the count's hopes of carrying any of the intended projects into execution. Among others of leſs note, which ſucceeded, he took up that of granting certain taxes for a certain number of years. Nothing was attended with greater proſpect of ſucceſs. A conſiderable majority of the members, that uſually attended the diet, which were ſeldom any other than thoſe that had ſomething to ask or ſomething to fear, actually promiſed the viceroy their concurrence. And he was not courtier enough to doubt their words. But ſome, who were not gratified, fell off before the day of trial; and ſome members, who rarely ever before attended the diet, in hopes of neighbour's ſhare in the favours of the viceroy, came to town, too late to be properly inſtructed by his excellency, but time enough to be affected by the ſpeeches of ſome zealous, diſappointed patriots, and to give their voices againſt the court.

Notwithſtanding ſuch unexpected reinforcements of the enemy, the truſty viceroy loſt the great queſtion only by a ſingle voice, which happened to be that of a gentleman, who juſt came and entered the houſe in his boots, time enough to give his voice and turn the ſcale. But, tho' this gentleman was for ſome time afterwards celebrated in ſtory, in bumper and in ſong, and every way honoured by

by the people for thus, tho' accidentally, preventing the preciptate fate of his country; yet, he ſoon after gave them to underſtand, it was not the effect of judgment or integrity: for, the firſt temptation, that afterwards offered, determined him a beaſt of burden and a penſioner to the miniſtry.

Notwithſtanding theſe chagrining diſappointments, it was not judged expedient to break yet openly with the *Nordwegians*. Therefore other means were contrived, by votes of credit to different viceroys, under the pretence of repairing harbours and fortreſſes, providing arms for the army and militia, and the like; together with drawing the funds as well as redundancies of funds out of the treaſury, upon the king's letters; to keep the country poor and miſerable. And the better to effect this, every viceroy introduced ſome new branch of luxury, which increaſed the imports to an intolerable exceſs. This for ſome time increaſed the revenues, while it begared the nation.

The count, after having made proviſions for his own family, and the dependants following him from *Danemarch*, whom he thruſt into the firſt employments civil, eccleſiaſtic and military, in prudent preference to performing promiſes made the members of the *Nordwegian* diet and their friends; retired from the government, not without keeping ſtill ſome intereſt in the people, by an artful, inſinuating deportment; which intereſt was daily improved in his abſence, by his honoured allies, and above all by his faithful creature, *Beeſingſtein*, now raiſed to a conſiderable biſhoprick, and afterwards to the primacy and regency of *Nordweg*.

Contented with eſtabliſhing ſuch drains as muſt ever keep the people of *Nordweg* poor and deſpicable, the *Daniſh* miniſtry were not very ſollicitous about the character of the viceroy, to be ſent to rule this wretched

wretched people; except when they had ſome favourite point to carry: then, a popular man was ſent; who if he had not parts to execute the miniſterial projects, had ſome ſubtle fellow coupled with him, under the name of a ſecretary, tho' in fact, often the viceroy; as he held his principal in leading-ſtrings, or muzzled or hoodwinked at his diſcretion, ſo as might beſt anſwer the intentions of their maſters in *Nordweg*.

LETTER V.

COUNT *Dorenſaght* was ſucceeded in office, not in capacity, by count *Devinſchwartz*, a man of low parts and little education, but with an heart ſo well diſpoſed, that had he not been born a courtier, he might have made an honeſt country gentleman. His fortune, intereſt and rank made him neceſſary to the court. Therefore he was early puſhed into places of more private profit and honour, than public truſt or importance. Yet notwithſtanding, he had naturally more of the farmer or fox-hunter than of the courtier, in his compoſition.

He had ſenſe enough to ſee how eaſy his predeceſſor got thro' his adminiſtration, and what an intereſt he ſtill kept up with the *Nordwegians* by the alliances he made among the rich families of that kingdom. No ſooner then was he ſpoke of for that office, than he laid himſelf out for matching his family in the ſame manner. He firſt got a rich *Nordwegian* heireſs for his eldeſt ſon. This ſecured him the intereſt of her family. Which, added to his being a deſcendant of the famous baron *Ruſchwall*, whoſe patriot blood was cruelly ſhed by the weak and wicked king *Chriſtiern* II. gave him a ſtrong intereſt in a people, among whom, a juſt

regard to the memory of illuſtrious men had not yet been quite extinguiſhed.

Thus circumſtanced, count *Devinſchwartz* entered upon the office of viceroy, taking the greateſt number of his family with him. The brilliancy of his court attracted the admiration of the *Nordwegians*. He was ſoon ſollicited for his daughters, by ſome of the moſt opulent and potent families, and prudently wedded firſt one, and then another, into one family, that of baron *Dungunsburgh*, who by lately amaſſing an exceſſive fortune, by means too complicated to be eaſily explaned, had acquired conſiderable influence in the ſtate.

Notwithſtanding the ſtrong alliance and powerful intereſt this viceroy made with the *Nordwegians*, no new attempt was made upon the conſtitution. He drew what money he thought fit, without controul, oppoſition or account, out of the public treaſury, upon the king's letters, by gifts, penſions, or gratuities. And what this fell ſhort of ſupplying for the preſent, the obſequious commons ſecured by votes of credit, under the pretext of building garriſons and forts, and providing arms for the defence of the ſtate.

That theſe were only names to gloſs over exceſſive grants to this viceroy, was in a ſhort time after granting made manifeſt: for, not an hundredth part of the expence was laid out in any article. The walls of ſome old uſeleſs forts were rough-caſt; the roofs of ſome barracks were pointed, and a few ſtands of arms, of which, not one in four, could anſwer the common proof, were ſent to make a ſhew in the armories, to ſave appearances. And when complaints were made, accounts demanded, and an enquiry attempted to be ſet on foot, it was ſeen to be all in vain; the viceroy had quit his employment for a new one in *Danemarch*. And ſoon after, he

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was ſeen to erect a ſpacious palace, to which, it was not doubted the *Nordwegian* treaſury had contributed. Before he quitted the regency, he took care to ſtrengthen and ſecure his intereſt, not only by his alliances, but by adding ſeveral to the number of the band of penſioners, who had long ſucked out the vitals of this country.

The number of theſe was multiplied induſtriouſly under every viceroy. There was hardly a court-diſtinguiſhed ſlave, nor a royal concubine, or other proſtitute, in *Danemarch*, that had not ſine-cure employments with enormous ſalaries or exceſſive penſions upon the eſtabliſhment of *Nordweg*; while moſt of the people of fortune of the country fled from the miſeries at home, to bask in the ſunſhine of a court.

But, how will you be able to conceive this, when you find, that this poor people were not allowed a mint or a coinage, even of copper, ſince the reign of king *John*? And when you are aſſured, that no money could be ſent them out of *Danemarch*, that was not ſubject to be ſeized and forfeited? Yet, they were, many of them, obliged to pay their rents and many other debts, and all the *Daniſh* fine-cure placemen, and all the penſioners, by *Danemarch* impoſed upon the wretched *Nordwegians*, were to be paid, in *Daniſh* coin. How will free *Britons* conceive that ſuch inconſiſtent cruelties, ſhould be exerciſed, how ſuch impracticable tasks could be aſſigned any people, ſince the *Egyptians* firſt ſet the worthy example of obliging the *Jews* to make brick without ſewel?—Yet ſee how parallel the caſe was in *Nordweg*, under the government of the oppreſſive, inconſiderate, cruel, falling *Danes*!

But, this was not the only cruelty in this inſtance: The cheapneſs of labour among the beggared *Nordwegians*, and the plenty of fiſh and ſome other

commodities, which their neighbours wanted, neceſſarily brought ſome *Daniſh*, *Swediſh* and other coins into *Nordweg*, and the more becauſe not only the *Daniſh*, but all the foreign coins were made to bear a conſiderably greater value in *Nordweg*, than in *Danemarch*: for, as ſoon as the penſioners, placemen and others complained, that they loſt greatly by the exchange of money from *Nordweg* to *Danemarch*, which was about ſeven or eight *per cent.* the rich *Nordwegian* landlords, living in *Danemarch*, joined with them, and were together able to influence the crown arbitrarily to reduce the value of the current coin in *Nordweg*, about three *per cent.* And when the diet of *Nordweg*, in order to put placemen and penſioners under the neceſſity of ſpending ſome time in the country, from whence they drew their ſubſiſtence, made a law, to tax all abſent placemen about five *per cent. per annum*, out of the profits of their employments every year, of which the incumbent did not ſpend half in *Nordweg*, and for the obliging all placemen to take certain oaths publicly, to qualify and oblige them to enter regularly into their offices; yet, few men in employments ever wanted means to get theſe ſenſible and ſalutary laws evaded or diſpenſed with, by the authority of the crown, or the arrogated ſuperiority of the diet of *Danemarch*. Had ſuch enormous cruelties, ſuch wanton, outragious tyranny been ever exerciſed by our kings or parliaments over *Ireland*; might we not reaſonably expect the ſame curſe ſhould attend our councils and overturn the conſtitutions of theſe happy realms, as thoſe of *Nordweg* and *Danemarch* were by theſe and ſuch like means? But againſt all ſuch evils, our native wiſdom and matchleſs virtue muſt prove impregnable ſhields.

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All theſe cruelties, however, the broken *Nordwegians* bore a long time paſſing well. Individuals indeed, ſometimes felt the oppreſſive ſtrokes of power, and ſome few foreſaw ſome dreadful effects muſt follow ſuch retrograde courſes, ſuch political, enormous backſlidings. Yet, did neither houſe in the diet, which was now modelled to the ſame form with that of *Danemarch* once interpoſe, or dare to make a ſingle remonſtrance againſt any impoſition laid on the people of *Nordweg* by the *Daniſh* miniſtry, however cruel, arbitrary, tyrannical or deſtructive they appeared. From this, they probably were terrified by the juriſdiction of their ſupreme court being aboliſhed and removed to *Danemarch*, by a ſhort act of that tyrannical, yet declining, ſtate. For, they had long been by fatal experience aſſured, that their grievances made the chief political pleaſure of their inſlavers, and that their complaining would not only faſten on their old chains the faſter, but probably get new ones ſet on.

Of this, many inſtances at different times were given. The moſt remarkable of which well deſerves relating: when the ſupreme judicature, backed by the nobles of *Nordweg*, complained of appealing from any of their courts to the ſupreme judicature in *Danemarch*, oppoſed the hateful incroachment, and reſumed their antient authority; the *Daniſh* court wreſted the judgment out of the hands of the *Nordwegian* tribunal; gave a decree againſt them, and ſent it to an inferior court, that of the treaſurer, in *Nordweg*, ordering them, who could have no cognizance of the cauſe, to execute the extra-judicial decree. This ſervile tribunal paſſively obeyed, adopted the decree of a foreign judicature, and got it, as their own, put into execution. At the next aſſembly of the diet in *Nordweg*, this ſhameful proceeding was examined, and it being found contrary

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to law and rights, injurious to the people in general, ſubverſive of the privileges of the diet and derogatory to the king's prerogative, who was till now preſumed to be virtually, if not actually preſent in all the courts, more eſpecially in the ſupreme judicature, in *Nordweg*; the nobles cenſured the perjured abetters of it, the high treaſurer and his aſſeſſors, and then in a moſt ſenſible and loyal addreſs to the king, remonſtrated againſt this unparalleled proceeding of the high court in *Danemarch*, in a manner equally pathetic and nervous.

Had it been poſſible, ſuch violent, ſuch ſacrilegious encroachments had been committed on the rights of the parliament or people of *Ireland*, by any court in *England*; who does not know, that a rational and loyal remonſtrance, would immediately produce a tender and ſatisfactory anſwer, a ſpeedy redreſs of grievances, from the ſovereign, who could not be exempt from the injury. But, ſee the different diſpoſitions of *Britiſh* and *Daniſh* kings and people! *Chriſtiern* III. was ſo far deaf to the remonſtrances of his faithful *Nordwegians*, that he never ſo much as anſwered, or even acknowledged the receipt of their addreſs. And as the moſt effectual means of preventing the trouble of ſuch addreſſes for the future; an act was paſſed in the *Daniſh* diet for taking from the *Nordwegian* court and nobles their principal juriſdiction and privileges for ever; while the cenſured judges were not only exempted from puniſhment, but rewarded, at the expence of the injured ſubjects, with conſiderable penſions on the eſtabliſhment. Such was the contempt of the rights of the people and the authority of the courts of *Nordweg*, ſuch the diſcouragement of virtue and public ſpirit, ſuch the reward of ſervitude in iniquity, in *Danemarch*!—How wonderful then ſhe

ſubſiſted

ſubſiſted ſo long in ſuch an abandoned ſtate of corruption.

LETTER VI.

THOUGH ſuch as theſe were the ordinary meaſures of adminiſtration, dealt out for years from *Danemarch* to *Nordweg*; yet it was ſometimes found, that a variety of accidents conſpired to give them, not above once in a century or ſo, a pleaſing if not a patriot viceroy. This happened upon the recalling of the count of *Devinſchwartz*.

This nobleman was ſucceeded in office by the count de *Tſcheſderveldt*. He was a man of a very antient and illuſtrious family, which conferred many benefits on their country, and in ſeveral branches did it ſingular honour in the diet, in the ſenate, and in the field. There was no abatement of theſe virtues in the perſon of this nobleman: he got a deeper tincture of ſchool and college learning than at that time uſually fell to the ſhare of his rank. He was likewiſe inſtructed in the beſt ſyſtems of philoſophy. But, he rather admired, and encouraged the progreſs of ſciences and arts in others, than to be at the trouble of labouring much in the vineyard himſelf. He read hiſtory antient and modern. And made himſelf well acquainted with the laws of nature in general, eſpecially, as far as they regarded the rights of men; and made himſelf particularly maſter of the conſtitutions of the kingdoms and ſtates under the crown of *Danemarch*. He travelled in his youth, and learned the languages of all the polite countries in *Europe*. This induced him in a more advanced age to take a tour, to learn the cuſtoms and manners, and the intereſts and connexions of the different courts, with intent to improve the manners and politics of his own country. And

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tho' his perſon was not the moſt graceful, he was the moſt flowery, the moſt perſuaſive orator of his time.

With theſe accompliſhments, the count de *Tſcheſderveldt*, had certainly made the greateſt figure of any counſellor of his time; were he not too much given up to his pleaſures. This gave every thing he ſaid or did, a tint of levity, which greatly diminiſhed the force of all he offered. His love for women, made him fall into all the little delicate ſoftneſſes that pleaſe the ſex, when they are not too far removed from manlineſs. He indulged in muſic for them, and for them, the philoſopher, the orator and the patriot was oft diſguiſed in the jingling numbers of an amorous ſong. This made him, what the world now calls, the fine gentleman.

His rank and fortune however, rather than the brightneſs of his parts, firſt called him to the corrupting court of *Chriſtiern* III. with whom his accompliſhments, in time, rendered him ſuch a favourite and confident as to have got him intruſted with ſeveral important embaſſies to the principal powers of *Europe*; where he well maintained the dignity of his rank, and otherwiſe acquitted himſelf to the honour and intereſt of his king and country.

As he advanced a little in years, he ſaw the follies of life, the abſurdities of man; which made him ſometimes indulge the ſatyrical, as he before had courted the amorous muſe. He was never known to baulk a laugh or a ſarcaſm, however unſeaſonable the time or diſtinguiſhed the character that gave occaſion. The prince, being none of the beſt or wiſeſt of men, was often forced to feel with pain the ſharpneſs of the wit and raillery of count *Tſcheſderveldt*. Nor was he exempted from this by aſcending the throne: for, thither did the count

purſue

purſue him, laugh at him to his face, and ſometimes in ballads, riddles and epigrams, would expoſe him to the groſſeſt ridicule.

This the king would have reſented, had he known how. One way, he attempted to be revenged. He refuſed to pay a legacy left by his father to the count, till he found, upon enquiry, that the courts were yet ſo free, that they dared decree againſt their ſovereign, if they ſaw juſt occaſion. He found then that his attempts for revenge muſt be vain. And as the count might be a dangerous enemy, if he could not be made a friend; the king judged it beſt to counterfeit a regard, where he could have none, and to take a man, whom he rather feared than loved, into his councils and ſeemingly into his confidence.

Here again, the count rather ſhewed himſelf troubleſome than uſeful. He frankly gave oppoſition to all ſuch meaſures as he did not approve. And as moſt of the meaſures of the court now were ſuch, he found it right to oppoſe, embarraſs and confound, rather than forward, the adminiſtration.

No wonder then, the king and the miniſtry ſhould wiſh the count out of the way. Each ſought for an opportunity of ſending him honourably from the court; but neither thought it ſafe to run the riſk of giving any offence. It was judged then the beſt to ſend him into *Nordweg*, to hold a diet there, in the room of the count *Devinſchwartz*, who was called home and put into a great place in the houſhold.

The count's curioſity to ſee *Nordweg*, if not his pride, was gratified in being ſent in ſo diſtinguiſhed a character, as that of the king's vicegerent, with power to provide for a number of his dependents. Therefore, he accepted the offer, upon condition, his commiſſion ſhould give him all the legal powers

of the office, beyond the influence or controul of the miniſtry.

Thus equipped, the count ſet out and arriving at *Bergen*, entered upon his office.

His family was well reſpected and his character much admired in *Nordweg*. Theſe raiſed his credit with the public, and gave him a power over them, which he could never abuſe. He prudently began with levelling all diſtinctions of parties, whether religious or political. And thus encouraged, all without diſtinction, crowded, and were well received at, his court. He viſited their univerſities, countenanced their men of learning, and gained their affection and confidence. He looked into the ſtate of their arts and commerce, and laid ſchemes to promote, extend and regulate them. He expoſed their bad policy, as well as their luxury and immorality, and pointed out the means of correcting the one and retrenching and avoiding the other, as far as the corrupt ſyſtem of the bad eſtabliſhment he found there would admit. He did not want judgment or inclination to make a general reformation. But this, he ſaw, exceeded the bounds of his commiſſion, as well as his natural powers. Evil cuſtoms long habitual are not eaſily laid aſide. Therefore, he chiefly laboured to make them forget the unhappy ſtate of ſervitude, in which they lived under *Danemarch*, and to turn their thoughts to the improving the little trade they had, and extending it to branches, as yet unreſtrained.

He found the *Nordwegian* government a petty epitome of that of *Danemarch:* party and faction ruled the whole. In the abſence of the viceroy, the kingdom was governed by a regency of one, two, or more men, ſometimes ſent from *Danemarch* to rule there; ſometimes the heads of different parties or factions in *Nordweg* were admitted, and

of

of late years, the men that had intereſt enough to be ſet at the head of the clergy, and the pleaders, which of late were always *Danes*, and he that could get himſelf choſen preſident of the commons, were named joint regents under the title of lords deputies or lords governors, who ruled abſolutely in their ſeveral departments, the primate always directing and anſwering for the conduct of the clergy, and frequently extending his influence to many of the laity, whether of the nobles or commons. The chancellor always took care of the men of law and their aſſociates, at leaſt, and often carried his influence to ſuiters of all denominations, who ever lay in *Nordweg* at the mercy of the courts, and were deemed abject dependants. And the rule or government of the commons was always veſted in their preſident, who was anſwerable for their obedience, while it ſerved his private purpoſes.

By the combination of theſe three, or the moſt powerful two of them, at the leaſt, all public buſineſs was to be tranſacted, eaſily and effectually, not otherwiſe. And to gratify theſe, to keep them in good humour, they were uſually left to manage each his reſpective department; except where they co-operated, as was generally the caſe: then they ſeverally extended their influences on nobles, clergy and commons univerſally, indiſcriminately. When they acted ſeparately, every man and thing relating to, or dependant on the church was ſuppoſed to be left under the direction and management of the primate; the management of men of law fell to the province of the chancellor, as all that related to the electing and ruling of the commons was committed to the conduct of the preſident of the commons.

Moſt viceroys judged themſelves obliged to fall in with two or all of theſe conductors of public

affairs, and to yield themſelves up in ſome meaſure to their guidance. In this ſituation, the count *Tſchefdirvelt* found the kingdom. But he determined to let them ſee he came to rule, not to be ruled. In the naming chaplains and preachers to the court, and in the diſpoſal of government-benefices up to biſhopricks, the primate gave it to be underſtood that his recommendation was to have the greateſt weight, if it was hoped he ſhould forward the ſervice of the crown. This the chancellor could not promote, unleſs he had the nomination of judges or aſſeſſors of all the courts, and the directing every thing relating to that and other branches of what he had learned to call his function. And if the preſident had not the appointment of ſheriffs, magiſtrates, and returning-officers, and the whole conduct and direction of the election and oeconomy of the commons committed entirely to his hands, he declared himſelf unequal to the management of the national affairs. How will the free and independant ſubjects of *Great Britain* and *Ireland* be able to conceive ſuch ſubtyrannies as thoſe to have ever got footing in any free ſtate?

If there be any merit in breaking ſuch confederacies in ſubtyranny as theſe, it all falls to count *Tſchefdirvelt*, who firſt reduced theſe uſurpers within the due bounds of their reſpective ſpheres. 'It may be thought a pity,' (ſaid this noble viceroy) 'to break in upon the oeconomy of this moſt wiſe and potent triumvirate of ſtate-managers. But, I muſt let you know, that I have no buſineſs with any one of you out of your proper ſpheres. I am come to do the buſineſs of the nation, which is the buſineſs of the king. And as I am ſole in the commiſſion, ſo I will be ſole in power, and while I am inſtruſted by his majeſty, with the reins of government, I will hold them, while they are permitted

mitted to be held with honor, for the mutual happineſs of the king and people, no longer. When I am at a loſs for the character of a man to fill any of the vacant places in the gift of the crown, I may conſult ſome, if not all of you; and may perhaps in ſome inſtances pay regard to each of your recommendations. But, I will hear of no demands of yours for preferment or places to be left at your diſpoſal, to enable you to carry on the buſineſs of the crown; nor will ſuch be in any wiſe neceſſary for you; becauſe I am reſolved to take all that trouble off your hands.'

The managers little ſuſpecting ſuch an unuſual ſpeech, were not prepared to give it any anſwer. They beſides, thought it moſt prudent to ſhew no reſentment, or by contending further, let a man into the ſecrets of their adminiſtrations, which they ſaw ſo unfit for the purpoſes of the miniſtry, that he could not hold his place long. They therefore thought it beſt to ſeem to approve this ſpirited conduct, and by apparently joining in it, to rob the author of it of ſome degree of his well merited applauſe.

By this means, the ſeſſion of the diet went ſmoothly on; the public buſineſs was freely and at a little trouble expedited, without offering any violation of the rights of the community or of any individual; which was ſo rarely the caſe in *Nordweg*, that this viceroy became the moſt popular that had ever been known ſince the union of *Calmer*. There are ſtatues of him kept to this day in the houſes of all that can afford them, let their religious or political tenets be what they may; while the poorer ſort hand down, as a moſt valuable preſent to poſterity, a print of this great lieutenant in the royal robes of the viceroy, ſurrounded by his ſpeeches to both aſſemblies of the diet. One diſpoſition of this

nobleman

nobleman however ſullied his fame and foiled his claim to immortality. The people overlooked the tincture of levity and jeſt, or what ſome call wit, that mixed itſelf with, and tarniſhed the luſtre of his beſt actions. His fondneſs for gaming and giving up ſome of his moſt important hours to the company of the moſt infamous ſharpers at cards and dice, were only mentioned as pardonable private frailties. But, the ſenſible, of his time, could not forget, nor let it eſcape the memories of their children, that this great man ſuffered private attachments and connexions ſo far to interfere with his public, political capacity, as to make him take a declared criminal upon record in *Danemarch*, into the firſt employment under him in *Nordweg*; while he filled up all the other offices, civil, eccleſiaſtic and military, that fell to his gift, with worthleſs minions, and burdened the overloaded eſtabliſhment with multiplied penſions for men of the ſame ſtamp. It is alſo ſaid, that he had ſeveral bills framed and paſt in the ſenate, with intent to be paſt in the ordinary form in the diet, by way of breaking the power of the diet, agreeable to *Gortſman*'s law. But in this he met with ſome oppoſition, which ſet ſucceeding viceroys upon engaging more of the conſiderable peers and commons in the ſenate.

His virtues however, not his failings, made the miniſtry think it not for the purpoſes of them and their maſter to let ſuch a viceroy remain long in ſuch a ſtation. Therefore they ſuddenly recalled him, ſending an other, more for their purpoſes, though leſs for thoſe of the people, to fill up the place.

LETTER VII.

COUNT *Tſcheſdirvelt* was ſucceeded in office, not in parts or accompliſhments, by baron *Yarringburgh*. This nobleman was of the younger branch of a family of great worth and eminence. He ſhewed no propenſity to learning or arts. His friends therefore choſe to ſend him into the army, which was then the common receptacle of the diſſolute and profligate of all ranks. He entered ſo early as the reign of *Frederick* II. and having had the opportunity of ſerving under a general, not inferior to our great duke of *Marlborough*, made ſuch a progreſs in the art military as procured him rank and fame. So that in all the ſucceeding wars, he was honoured with ſome command, and in times of peace, he was employed in public embaſſies or other great offices of ſtate.

He became a particular favourite of *Chriſtiern* IV. who raiſed him to the rank of nobility, and gave him the place of chief ſecretary of ſtate, an office of great honour and truſt, and extremely profitable.

In this, he amaſſed great riches, and might have enjoyed it all his life, had he had but a little common ſenſe and a moderate portion of common gratitude. He ſaw, that his office, his rank and his riches conſpired to give him ſome weight, and he was determined to exert his moment, regardleſs of the reſpect he owed him from whom he derived all he poſſeſſed, purely to ſhew his own conſequence and gratify his pride.

To do this, he needs muſt interfere with the king's appointing, as he had done him, the other officers of his court. And laid hold of an oppor-

tunity, in which the king could the worſt brook oppoſition in any part of the adminiſtration. This was in the laſt war, when the king wanted the influence of all his miniſters to raiſe money to ſupport the war, to prevent a threatened invaſion, and to quell a rebellion. At this time, the king made a promotion of civil officers, that were not quite agreeable to his new creature, the baron. Upon which, the retrograde courtier, to ſhock the public credit and put the king under the neceſſity of changing his meaſures, even to the expulſion of the laſt promoted officers, ſtirred up a kind of revolt among the other great officers, whom he prevailed upon to throw up their places, which they ſeverally did in a formal reſignation under their hands, the baron's name ſtanding foremoſt in the black liſt. But in this, a ſucceeding viceroy bore a part, underhand.

Cæſar was not more ſhocked at ſeeing *Brutus* at the head of the conſpiracy againſt his forfeit life, than *Chriſtiern* IV. was at ſeeing the hand of his late creature and favourite *Yarringburgh* at the head of this ill-timed, unjuſt aſſociation to diſtreſs his government. The baron for the preſent gained his ends; the king was forced to reverſe his promotion, and to court all the ſeceders to come back into their lately ſurrendered employments, before he could get the public buſineſs carried on.

But, the indignity offered him, and the ingratitude of his worthleſs minion, he never was able to forgive or forget. He therefore ſought for every opportunity of getting ſhut of a man ſo obnoxious to him as *Yarringburgh* had now made himſelf. But, his evil conduct rendering the king in ſome meaſure dependant on his own creatures, he did not dare to break openly with this malevolent miniſter. He therefore was forced to diſſemble with him, till he had an opportunity of offering him the vicegerency in *Nordweg*, calculated only

only for a civil baniſhment from the court, into an office, where an unwary man might eaſily be decoyed into his own diſgrace or deſtruction.

All this was the ſubtle contrivance of the count *de Dorenſaght*, who edged on this duped peer to his undoing. He firſt ſet him on the reſignation, promiſing to join in reſigning his employments. But, when the baron was hurried to a length, from which he could not look back, the artful count feigned ſickneſs and let his hated rival ſtand foremoſt, if not alone, at the head of a ſeceſſion.

He went ſtill further, and ſet the poor unthinking baron upon the evil ſchemes of government, that will be found to have wrought his deſtruction in *Nordweg*, lying upon the lurch to ſucceed him in favour and employment. In which he craftily gained his ends, the baron never ſuſpecting the count's friendſhip, till a little before his death.

Yarringburgh unſuſpecting ſiniſter deſigns, was pleaſed with his promotion, got his commiſſion much more limited than his predeceſſor, and ſet out well contented, upon his government.

The *Nordwegians*, whoſe loyalty and affection to the *Holſtein* family bordered upon infamous ſervility, conſidering the treatment given them by this family, unknowing of the plot, received this, to them, ſeeming favourite of his majeſty, as a pledge of his royal love; and partly on this account, and partly in reſpect to the baron's family and name, treated the new viceroy at his firſt coming, with every mark of reſpect and honour.

Nothing new being ſtarted in the firſt aſſembly of the ſtates held by him; all things were carried on with harmony and peace. To ſecure which, he entered into a ſort of compriſe with the three managers: they were to take all the management of affairs, and the emoluments attending it, between

them, leaving him only what his maſter in *Denemarch* enjoyed, the title, honours and common profits of his place. They were to plan out the courſe of adminiſtration, and he was, as they directed, to give their conduct the ſanction of his name. And upon this agreement, they undertook to get any moderate ſcheme of the *Daniſh* miniſtry carried into execution.

While all went on ſmoothly under this kind of management, an accident happened, from ſmall beginnings, that greatly diſconcerted the viceroy and his managers, and in the end precipitated his diſgrace.

The citizens of *Bergen* were by one of their corps ſtirred up to great diſcontent and wrath againſt the burgomaſter and ſcapins of that city, upon a preſumption of their wreſting from the ſenate of the city, their votes in the elections of their magiſtrates, together with ſundry other privileges.

Theſe ſcapins, it ſeems, had now for ſome time choſen themſelves in ſucceſſion, regardleſs of the free men and commonalty of the city, and under the influence of the managers, whoſe moſt uſeful tools the ſcapins were, upon many occaſions, found.

The citizens being well perſuaded of the rights of which they were ſtripped by the ſcapins, grew firſt importunate, afterwards, tumultuous and clamorous; and, finding all amicable means of accommodation fail, at length determined to wage law with their oppreſſors, for the recovery of their uſurped rights.

The ſuit was no ſooner commenced, than the managers, fearing the power of election, by getting into the multitude of the citizens, out of the hands of the few ſcapins under the influence of the government, might endanger the authority of the triumvirate or quadruumvirate; commanded the preſident

ſident and aſſeſſors of the court, if they could not caſt the citizens in due form of law, to reject their ſuit and refuſe them a hearing.

The judges were all obedience: for, though they were forced, upon the ſtrength of the proofs laid before them, to confeſs an antient, original inherent right in the commonalty and citizens, interrupted only in a few inſtances of later years;, yet, they took upon them, by the inſtigation and authority of the regency, peremptorily to refuſe admitting the matter in diſpute, the right of election of ſcapins, to be tried by due courſe of law. Thus the viceroy and his managers were able to ſhut up the courts of juſtice. A violence of which no ſubject of our free kingdoms can complain.

This however proved one of the moſt fatal ſtumbling-blocks, that was thrown in the way of baron *Yarringburgh*. Nor was he able to recover the trip of the firſt falſe ſtep he made, till he fell to the ground.

Juſt before the baron was appointed viceroy, a writer, in our phraſe, an attorney, of ſome ſenſe and more ſpirit, was choſen into the ſenate of the city of *Bergen*. He was a man of more than ordinary reading. He was already acquainted with the hiſtory and the laws of the realm, and there wanted but a little application to make him acquainted with thoſe of the city. This was not long wanting. He ſoon revolved all the records of the city, and made them known to his fellows. The public now firſt ſaw the incroachments the ſcapins had made upon the power and rights of the ſenate and citizens, particularly in the inſtance of elections. Upon this it was, that they commenced the ſuit with the ſcapins, whoſe fate we have before ſet forth.

Rutilius the attorney adviſed the ſenate and citizens not to let this ſuit drop in this manner, but

make a complaint to the viceroy firſt, and if he ſhould not redreſs their grievances, to lay their complaints, as well of the viceroy as of the judges, before the throne.

The incenſed multitude readily embraced the advice of *Rutilius*, who now made himſelf ſo popular as to be looked upon as one of the firſt tribunes of the people, another *Gracchus*. They truſted their cauſe entirely to his hands, and impowered him to act for them, in their name.

Rutilius wanted but their ſanction. He drew up their complaints in form, printed them and preſented them to the viceroy, ſubſcribed with his name, in behalf of himſelf and the reſt of the ſuffering ſenate and citizens of *Bergen*.

The viceroy received them with ſeeming politeneſs. Expreſſed his concern for the occaſion. Promiſed to inſpect into the matter, and to do his utmoſt to redreſs the grievances of all his majeſty's loyal ſubjects committed to his government, thoſe of the ſenate and citizens of *Bergen* in particular.

Rutilius departed well ſatisfied with this reception and theſe promiſes; never ſuſpecting the viceroy's being himſelf at the bottom of their grievances. He took the firſt opportunity of informing the citizens of his proceedings, and the proſpects of ſucceſs; with which, they were alſo highly ſatisfied; not knowing, or yet ſuſpecting, that the complained of iniquity of the judges was authoriſed by *Yarringburgh* and his managers in concert.

Rutilius's complaints were couched in ſuch ſtrong terms, his cries ſo pathetic and ſo popular, that they could not fail of affecting the viceroy, moved more by fears, than any regards to juſtice. He therefore conſulted the preſident of the court and the triumvirate of managers, what had beſt be done to quiet the minds of the complainants, quell their tumults

and to ſilence their clamours. They told him, it was a matter of no ſort of conſequence; that the fomenter of theſe troubles was a madman, whoſe frenzy had indeed proved a little infectious for ſometime paſt. But, that the ſureſt way of curing the multitude was to pay them no regard; and that their clamours would neceſſarily ceaſe, as ſoon as they were diſcouraged by the government.

Tho' the incenſed multitude was not ſo eaſily appeaſed in *Danemarch*, the viceroy was ſatisfied with the advice of his managers, and therefore obſerved their pleaſing precepts. Soon after which, having ſettled all the public affairs to his mind, and drained the treaſury, agreeable to the cuſtom of his predeceſſors, he returned to *Copenhagen*.

LETTER VIII.

DURING the viceroy's abſence, the ſeats of the repreſentatives of *Bergen* became vacant, by the death of their members. The citizens could not help caſting their eyes on *Rutilius* for one of their repreſentatives, being the man who had moſt diſtinguiſhed himſelf in the knowledge, as well as in the aſſerting, of their rights. With him, they ſet up another popular man, for the other ſeat.

The whole quadruumvirate, and all their creatures and dependants, were much alarmed at this; dreading nothing more than an oppoſition in the diet, from a man, who ſo bravely and ſteadily aſſerted the rights of the public in a lower ſphere, regardleſs of the interpoſition of the higheſt powers.

However, as elections were generally made as the nod of power and the influence of the treaſury directed, all over the kingdom as well as in the city; however popular theſe tribunes appeared, the managers promiſed

promiſed the viceroy, that their attempts to get into the diet ſhould be foiled.

With this intent, they ſingled out two ſcapins of weight in oppoſite factions, the one an avowed glum, the other a zealous glym, and each connected with families of fortune of theſe parties, who, as ſoon as theſe partiſans were declared candidates, engaged them ſeverally their votes and intereſt. Thus fortified, theſe court-favoured candidates began to think their election ſecure, and to laugh at the idle pretenſions of the plebean candidates, who reſolved to be at no expence, to ſollicit no vote, but to truſt entirely to the good will of the populace, by former ſervices beſpoke. And the managers exulted at ſeeing their ſchemes in ſo fair a way to ſucceſs, and laughed at the weak efforts of the puny opponents of their extended and long eſtabliſhed ſway.

Rutilius was a man of ſome learning, but greater natural parts. He gave up all the hours he could ſpare from his profeſſion and the calls of ſociety, to which he religiouſly attended, to purſue the ſtudy of nature. The coy virgin admitted him to the cloſeſt intimacy. He explored her ſecrets, admired the elegant ſimplicity, the beauty and harmony of her oeconomy, and diligently purſued the paths ſhe pointed out. Tho' he was the laſt of a family buried in the ruins of time, and had no fortune, but his profeſſion; he could not proſecute it with mercenary views. The affluence of fortune had no charm for him, nor adverſity any thing terrible, in his ſight. He ſtudied the nature of man; but learned more what man ſhould be, than diſcovered what man really was. He held the ſervice of the community, the firſt, the great indiſpenſable duty of every individual, and that no private intereſt or concern ſhould in any meaſure come in competition

with

with the public good. This made the public, *Rutilius*'s principal care, to which he made all private conſiderations ſubſervient.

Of this, he gave the earlieſt proof: for, as ſoon as he became his own maſter, he publicly expoſed the frauds and corruptions, that had over-run and diſgraced his profeſſion, rendering it injurious inſtead of being uſeful to ſociety, and unfit to be followed by a man of a fair character. He did this in ſuch ſtrong and plain terms, that the diet were moved upon his remonſtrances to make ſome reformation, but far ſhort of what this honeſt man propoſed. In this attempt, he had the misfortune not only of ſtanding quite ſingle; but of being powerfully oppoſed by his whole profeſſion in all its branches; which raiſed him many powerful adverſaries, whoſe enmity never could ſubſide.

He ſought no honours, indeed he knew none, but the approbation of wiſe and good men, ſeconding the dictates of a well regulated conſcience. His deſire to ſerve the public, made him ſubmit to be declared a candidate. He hardly hoped for ſucceſs, however he might have eſtimated his own private abilities or intentions; well knowing, that power and opulence, which connected and commanded parties and factions, by whom elections were generally, univerſally made, were all againſt him.

One principle, he firmly eſtabliſhed, as the great unerring guide of his political conduct; which was to do no degree of evil, to effect the greateſt good. His heart being entirely devoted to the ſervice of the public, made him ſenſible of all their intereſts and concerns: for no barometer was more uniformily affected by the changes of the atmoſphere, than *Rutilius* by the frequent alterations in the fluctuating ſtate of public affairs.

His

His ſenſes were all acute, his ſenſibility exquiſite. His imagination was warm and quick; his conceptions clear, his judgment diſtinct; his memory ſound and great, and his expreſſions ſimple and ſtrong.

His ſtature inclined to the tall and graceful. His countenance comely, open and ſerene; his mien and deportment genteel and placid. His paſſions were naturally quick and rapid; but much moderated by reaſon and humanity, where the provocation was not exceſſive; then, he was apt to become violent.

In love and friendſhip, he ran into flights of purity, conſtancy, and fidelity, that to the generality ſeemed rather romantic than practical. And the candour of his heart in theſe, expoſed him to many impoſitions: for, he never doubted any man's being what he profeſſed. He was civil to his ſuperiors, in proportion to the modeſty of their deportment. Upon the tyrannical, the arrogant, and proud, he let looſe all his indignation and contempt; taking all means to level them with the loweſt of their ſpecies. To his inferiors, he was reſpectful and complaiſant, ever ready to ſhew them all acts of humanity and benevolence. And with thoſe, who in diſtreſſes preſerved their integrity, he preſerved the moſt intimate fellowſhip, and held all the goods of life in common; ſhewing how much their innate virtue enobled, and ſet them above king-created dignitaries.

Few men were ever known more ſteady, more determinate in their purpoſes, than *Rutilius*. He might, and probably as a man muſt, have been often led from his reſolutions, unknowingly or inadvertently, perhaps paſſionately; but no power could deter him from the purſuits of what he was perſuaded to be right and his duty.

He

He never deſignedly gave offence, nor ever took offence, where he had not reaſon to think it deſigned. Private injuries made ſo little impreſſion on him, even when they reduced him to adverſity; that he was ever ready to forgive them, upon a ſlight acknowledgment of the offenders. But, he waged perpetual war againſt thoſe, whom he looked upon as the enemies of his country, while they held the power and purpoſes to annoy the public.

He looked upon a man as in a maſquerade, who was not ever ready to ſpeak truth to his neighbour. This gave him ſuch an open frankneſs in converſation, upon all ſubjects, as often expoſed him to the inconveniencies frequently attending ſuch candid diſpoſitions. He could bear no diſguiſe; ſo that every man might learn *Rutilius*'s own ſentiments on any matter, public or private; but thoſe of others, delivered him in ſecrecy, he guarded inviolably.

A mind thus framed muſt ever prompt perſpicuous utterance, where the organs of ſpeech correſpond. In this, nature was not leſs liberal in gifts to *Rutilius*, than in other inſtances: he had a ſtrong, ſound and tuneful voice; an eaſy, familiar, but warm and affecting, manner of expreſſion, with the greateſt choice of words. So that he was rather redundant, than in any meaſure defective, in ſpeaking upon any ſubject he aſſumed.

Thus, what fortune denied him, nature amply ſupplied. He knew no rule of rhetoric, yet was a moſt perſwaſive orator. Nor did he know his own force in eloquence, more than in other inſtances, till a noble ardour to exert himſelf in the public cauſe, urged him to manifeſt his hidden powers. This he did ſo forcibly, ſo rapidly, that he fell under the imputation of enthuſiaſm, with the cool and the judicious. And indeed, without ſuch a ſpirit, he

could never have performed the task he undertook.

This character may by ſome be ſuppoſed fictitious; while the truth of it is likely to be queſtioned by thoſe that know, it was drawn by *Rutilius* himſelf: for all that is here ſaid of him is aſſerted in one part or other of his own writings; except the deſcription of his perſon and faculties, which his contemporary writers confirm.

As to the reſt, particularly the moral part, of his character, he ſtrongly inſiſts upon it, in his public orations and in his letters to *Probus* and ſeveral others of his friends. And, when theſe upbraided him with vanity, he denied the charge, challenging his enemies to contradict what he ſaid of his own principles, and calling upon his friends to teſtify the truth of his character. In one of theſe letters he ſays; 'My friends' accuſation of vanity, at the utmoſt proves me but proud. And as it is a virtuous pride, I am not aſhamed of the charge. Have I drawn the character of a good man, and taken it to myſelf? I own I have. I have done it in my life-time I have thrown down the gaunlet. Let the invidious or malevolent take it up, while I live. Let them hold the drawing to the original, and ſee and ſhew where the painter has flattered, if they can. By doing this, I think I have given the public and you ſome ſecurity for my future good behaviour: for, if I contradict, or in my conduct hereafter fall ſhort of the character, at which I have aſpired; I put it in the power of my adverſaries to ſhew me, of all men living, the moſt contemptible. Sure it can never be a crime to dare to be, or to aſſert being, virtuous and free? Before this be, let me die!'

With theſe qualifications, moſtly as yet untried, *Rutilius* was declared a candidate upon his own principles; which was never known before in *Bergen*.

He

He thought it his indiſpenſable duty to propagate and ſupport this noble ſpirit, by which the freedom and purity of elections, long overthrown, might poſſibly be reſtored.

It had formerly been the cuſtom in theſe northern ſtates, as well as in antient *Greece* and *Rome*, for the candidates for public offices, thoſe eſpecially that could not well be diſcharged without the help of eloquence, to attend the meetings of the ſeveral electors, and in addreſſes, harrangues or orations, to give ſome proof of their qualifications. Since the freedom of elections was violated by power, and private intereſt alone dictated on whom the electors choice ſhould fall; this cuſtom was laid ſo far aſide, that it was now reckoned enough for a candidate to be introduced, even in dumb ſhew, to an aſſembly. The perſwaſive arguments were offered in private; money or the commands of the great.

Theſe arguments were entirely on the ſide of the court-candidates, and they urged no other. They never went further than declaring, the number and ſtrength of their friends in the diet, and their connexions with the government. They ſaid, 'that they would not take up much of the electors' time in addreſſing them in public, reſolving to wait upon each individual and addreſs him properly in private.' This for ages had been reckoned enough. And this probably, was the chief reaſon, why there were ſo few in either houſe of the diet, that could bring out any thing beyond a monoſyllable in public, upon any occaſion.

This cuſtom and theſe ſiniſter influences, *Rutilius* now reſolved to oppoſe, and if poſſible, to overthrow. He had given him for his collegue, *Dighſlatſchius*, a man orginally deſigned for ſome of the learned profeſſions, and for this purpoſe inſtructed in letters in his youth. But upon his taking a greater liking to trade, he

was ſent to *Amſterdam* to be qualified in the counting-houſe of one of the greateſt merchants of the age. Under him, our candidate made a great progreſs in political arithmetic, and in all the various kinds and branches of trade in *Europe*. After viſiting ſeveral parts of the continent, he returned to his native city, *Bergen*; ſet out in a narrower circle of commerce, with a good capital, and in a ſhort time, became one of the moſt conſiderable merchants of *Nordweg*.

He was a man of a lively imagination, ready conception, a good judgment in moſt matters, more eſpecially in trade. He was proud, and to gratify that paſſion, early aſpired at city honours, and might have arrived at the chief magiſtracy of *Bergen*, from a connexion with ſome of the principal ſcapins, had he not encouraged a ſpirit of contradiction, which led him into ſome ſeeming oppoſition to thoſe powers. He was remarkably good-natured; and might be truly ſaid to be good humoured, though he was not always proof againſt the ſudden incurſions of paſſion, which ſometimes gave him an appearance foreign to his natural diſpoſition: for, in the rapid guſts and tranſports of paſſion, he ſometimes was hurried to give offence; for which his pride would not always let him make all the attonement, that nice honour required. And a ſomewhat too tender ſenſe of humanity, an abhorrence to cruelty and bloodſhed, ſometimes induced him to put up with offences, not to be borne conſiſtently with the then faſhionable modes of reſentment.

He ſet out a candidate, in the common courſe, upon the ordinary principles; ſecuring votes and promiſes of votes by every means that could influence the electors: for, it was not repugnant to his ſchemes of policy, whatever it might be to his

ſyſtem of morality, to do a little evil occaſionally, to produce ſome good. He therefore ran into factious connexions to promote his ends in the ſenate of the city, as well as to gain his election. In which, he never could get *Rutilius* to join.

He declared himſelf a candidate in terms, and a manner very different from thoſe of *Rutilius*, and in ſome ſort, in oppoſition to him. Then, there was but one ſeat vacant, and but one ſcapin ſet up by the government. But, when two ſeats were vacant, and two ſcapins were declared candidates, the friends of *Dighſlatſchius* and *Rutilius* inſenſibly formed a kind of coalition, to ſtrengthen the popular intereſt againſt the common enemies; not that it appears, that either intereſted himſelf in any ſort in the particular ſucceſs of the other.

Dighſlatſchius was very zealous to ſecure his election. *Rutilius* appeared indifferent about his; further than as it tended to revive the true ſpirit of election and the political conſtitution, and to reſtore the loſt rights of the people. In this reſpect, the one ſeemed actuated by a no leſs lively zeal than the other. But each purſued different means to come at their ends: the former demanded and accepted promiſes of votes; the latter ſhewed, no man ſhould promiſe a vote, upon any condition; but ſhould take the time of the vacancy to conſider the merits of the candidates, that he may come prepared to give his vote at the election, not as private intereſt, previous promiſes or other ſiniſter connexions ſhould direct; but as a juſt regard to the qualifications of the candidates, and each man's duty to ſociety, demanded.

Dighſlatſchius, more verſed in letters and more converſant with men, ſtudied and aimed at oratory; but, however forcible his reaſoning, his oration ſavoured ſo much more of art than nature, that it did

did not carry all the perſwaſion that might be hoped.

When the managers ſet up their creatures as candidates, and engaged all their dependants, with the whole weight of the treaſury, to ſecure their elections; it was thought that neither of the plebean candidates had any chance of ſucceſs. Yet each reſolved to try the ſenſe and freedom of the electors; and with that intent, each determined to revive the antient *Roman* method of addreſſing the aſſemblies of the electors.

Rutilius firſt opened the conſtitution of the kingdom, and the inſtitution, office, and duty, of every civil officer in the ſtate, and then explained thoſe of the city; ſhewing what the legal government of each ſhould be, which pointed out ſyſtems of political happineſs, that none of them before conceived, and ſuch as ſeemed to many but romantic. Then, he ſhewed how this became connected to another kingdom, and the exact parity of each, without giving or demanding any precedence to the other; and pointed out the happineſs that ſhould reſult to both nations from ſuch a rational union, kept clear of abuſes. Then, he turned to the other ſide of the queſtion, and pathetically laid down the abuſes, the breaches of theſe happy conſtitutions, the reverſing the duties as well as the adminiſtration of offices; the corruptions and uſurpations of magiſtrates, the tyranny exerciſed by one kingdom over the other; together with the fatal conſequences of each, with reſpect to paſt, preſent and future times.

He dwelt particularly and emphatically upon the duties of electors in chuſing fit repreſentatives, freely, diſintereſtedly, diſpaſſionately; and ſhewed the requiſite qualifications and duties of the elected repreſentatives. He made them ſenſible of the bleſſings to which they were intitled, under the legal conſtitutions

conſtitutions of the kingdom and city; and ſhewed the fatal contraſt between this and what their anceſtors had ſuffered, in what they were now ſuffering, and their poſterity were likely to ſuffer, under the infamous and moſt iniquitous perverſion of all order and good government among them, both in church and ſtate.

He demonſtrated, that the diſtreſſing evils, under which they groaned, were either brought on or permitted, thro' the ignorance, ſupineſs or corruption of ſuch as were appointed guardians of the rights and liberties of the public in the diet, not otherwiſe. And, that till fit repreſentatives, upon conſtitutional principles were choſen, neither they nor poſterity could have a right to hope for a reformation.

He made it appear, that legal and juſt elections were the indiſpenſable duty of every ſociety; but, that it was particularly incumbent on the city, to ſhew the firſt example; eſpecially, as her own rights were in an ſpecial manner ſtruck at, and the courts of law, as well as the ears of the government were ſhut againſt them.

He did not forget to lay before them, in the ſtrongeſt terms, that they could not, conſiſtent with their duty as loyal ſubjects, or with their oaths as citizens, chuſe any of the ſcapins, who had perfidiouſly invaded the rights of the ſenate and citizens; eſpecially, as they were ſet up, and ſupported, by the managers, who wiſhed for nothing more than ſeeing the government of the city entirely wreſted out of the hands of the citizens and ſenate, to be placed in thoſe of the ſcapins, a few creatures, ever under the influence of the government; as the *Roman* tyrant wiſhed that the people had but one head, that he might cut it off at one blow.

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With regard to himſelf, he told them, his motives for embarking in the troubles of an election, were no more than to let the public ſee his readineſs to obey their calls, and to ſerve in every office to which he ſhould be regularly elected, by the voice of a brave and free people; that as he had no favour to ask, he ſhould ſollicit none of them, either privately or publicly; that his principal inducement for addreſſing them in this manner, was to put himſelf and the other candidates under the neceſſity of laying themſelves open to the public, that the citizens in their public aſſemblies might ſee who are candidates; and be enabled, from hearing them on the ſubject of election and the political ſtate of the city and nation, to judge who may be beſt qualified to ſerve the office, for which he ſued. He bad them, rather to conſider him as a fellow-citizen, come to adviſe his brethren, upon a preſſing emergency, than as a candidate, come to engage their votes. He recommended their uſing all means to examine and to prove the characters and capacities of the candidates, and if they did not like them, to look out for, and ſet up others; then, to keep clear of promiſes and other engagements, till the day of election; and, by the manner of giving their voices, prove themſelves honeſt, ſenſible, diſintereſted and free citizens; and thus at once do honour to the elector and the elected, which was only to be done by a diſintereſted, a judicious, a free choice.

Dighſlatſchius prudently confined himſelf to the affairs of the city; with inveighing againſt the ſcapins' encroachments on the rights of the citizens and ſenate, ſhewing their unfitneſs for ſuch offices, and the inconſiſtency with the character and duty of a good citizen, to give ſuch men a voice; and after a while, joined warmly in every thing *Rutilius* offered, that did not interfere with the preſent

ſent ſtate of the nation or its managers, either at home or in *Danemarch*. To theſe, he at firſt affected to pay uncommon, I had like to have ſaid, unbecoming deference, bordering upon ſervile ſubmiſſion. But, finding it render him unpopular, he at length dropt the ſubject.

Both theſe candidates by exerciſe improved in oratory, ſo as to be in time moſt attentively and reſpectfully heard by all ranks in the city, eſpecially by the citizens; who, when they were aſſured of the ſincerity of theſe men's zeal, and of their abilities, admitted them into the fellowſhip and freedom of their ſeveral communities, preſenting them with gold and ſilver boxes, and other marks of public approbation and regard, recommending perſeverance to them in the principles they thus avowed, and aſſuring them of the moſt determined purpoſes in the city to ſupport them. But this popularity ſoon became fatal to both the candidates; as nothing could prove more dreadful and dangerous to their antagoniſts, and their potent patrons, than ſuch a ſpirit.

Authors however, are not perfectly agreed in the characters of theſe two diſtinguiſhed plebeans. A grave, tho' anonymous hiſtorian of the age, tells us, that *Dighſlatſchius*, was the better and the more ſenſible man, the greater and more powerful orator. And that he appealed to the ſenſe and judgment, while artful *Rutilius* addreſſed himſelf to the paſſions, of his hearers. All that a man, who has not heard theſe gentleman in perſon, can ſay upon the occaſion is, that by any remains of their writings, at this time preſerved, no foundation for the aſſerted ſuperiority appears.

The ſcapins, who could never bring out much more in the aſſemblies, than a recital of their cringing advertiſements, were ſo expoſed to contempt and ridicule, by the plebean candidates, that they

were hiſſed and laught out of the public halls, and ſoon after, hooted in their paſſing thro' the public ſtreets. And thus the election ſeemed clearly determined, in effect, in favour of the two plebean candidates; while not a man was found to countenance the ſcapins, that was not bought or otherwiſe influenced by private conſiderations. All that had ſervile offices dependant on the ſcapins or burgomaſter, all that held places or penſions at the will of the viceroy or managers, were all avowedly engaged to the ſcapin cadidates; and, except a few moved by private connexions, not a man of any conſequence was ſeen to appear, declare for, or recommend a ſcapin.

Rutilius, not contented with delivering his ſentiments verbally in the aſſemblies, gave a further teſtimony of his political principles, publiſhing the ſubſtance of all his orations under his hand. Theſe got into all hands, and were ſoon ſpread throughout the kingdom. In theſe, he revived the liberties granted by the union of *Calmar*, long ſuppreſſed and almoſt buried in oblivion. Theſe, with ſundry charters and ſtatutes relating to government, he publiſhed, with commentaries in the vulgar tongue. He alſo tranſcribed and tranſlated the principal charters of the city, and publiſhed them, with a bold and free addreſs to the king, aſſerting the rights and liberties of the ſubjects in general, of the citizens of *Bergen* in particular, and complaining of the lawleſs oppreſſions and neglects of duty, of governors, judges, and other magiſtrates in general, particularly of the preſent viceroy, in ſlighting or ſuppreſſing the complaints of the citizens.

Dighſlatſchius publiſhed ſome of his orations; but was ſo cautious as to keep clear of government and miniſterial matters, in hopes to eſcape, the iron hand

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of power, which nevertheleſs fell heavily on him, as well as on his colleague, in the end.

While this gained *Rutilius* univerſal applauſe, the moſt boundleſs affection and confidence of the citizens in particular; it could not fail of quickening the enmity of the viceroy, and his managers againſt him. The creatures of power, ſcanned over the author's papers, with ſtrictneſs, equal to their malevolence. Lawyers and even judges and ſenators were conſulted, to try to intangle *Rutilius* in his own words. But, to their grief, and all mens ſurprize, in all the ſpeeches and writings of a man, who wore no ſort of diſguiſe, but uttered all his thoughts without reſtraint or reſerve; not a ſentence could be found, ſo unguarded as to admit of proſecution, or even of contradiction. Thus, he for a while triumphed over his enemies, beloved by the multitude, admired by the few wiſe and good.

The time now approached, when the diet was to be aſſembled. The firſt thing eſſential to be done, was the filling up vacant places. And every ſcheme engaged the attention of the government, that promiſed the deſtruction of *Rutilius* or the preventing his election.

Yarringburgh was all this time in *Copenhagen*, where he had ſo much the ear of the king or his miniſters, as to prevent the addreſs of *Rutilius* or any other complaints being offered to his majeſty's hands. He did not chuſe to return to *Nordweg*, till means were agreed upon of preventing the election of a man ſo obnoxious to him and the whole court, as this daring tribune of the people. The ſcheme being at length laid, to his excellency's mind, he ventured to return to his government; where his ſecond reception by no means equalled the firſt.

LETTER IX.

NOW the ſcapin candidates began again to appear in public and to ſollicit votes as they did in the beginning. Upon finding all freemen declare in favour of the two plebean candidates; they told them, from good authority, that all attempts to bring thoſe men into the diet, *Rutilius* in particular, would be vain. That ſuch a proſecution would be ſoon commenced againſt him, as he would not be able to withſtand; ſo that he could never come to election. And, as for *Dighſlatſchius*, if he ſhould be elected, after his collegue was cut off, which was much to be doubted; it would be only prolonging the troubles in the city; for the members of the common's houſe were determined he ſhould never ſit in the diet, tho' he were elected and returned by unanimous conſent of the whole kingdom.

Thus the great ſecret of the managers tranſpired. But, it could have made no impreſſion upon the perſons threatned; who, however juſtly, meanly they might have thought of the government; did not think they would dare to interfere with the election of members for the capital, however frequently they had heretofore overturned the elections of inferior ſtadts or burghs.

Rutilius was moſt confident in this; and hearing that his papers were cenſured, his loyalty and affection to the royal family called in queſtion; he went to the viceroy's court, preſented him with a collection of his papers, which were then very voluminous, and made ſuch a declaration of his political ſentiments, as his excellency could not preſume then to diſapprove. The candidate explained the motives of his conduct, and declared, that as he had nothing

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but truth in view, if it could be made to appear, that he had in ſpeaking or writing, advanced any thing wrong, he would thank the hand that corrected him, and immediately, as publicly recant, as he had broached or propagated an error.

This was a diſpoſition and declaration, his excellency little expected from a man, who dared to complain of him to the king. He was glad to get the papers, of which he doubted not being able to make a proper uſe. He accepted them courteouſly, and diſſembled a general ſatisfaction at the interview. This gave the unſuſpecting *Rutilius* new aſſurance, that the menaces of the ſcapins and their friends were all vain. But, he was ſoon after undeceived: for all this diſſembled courteſy, was only from hopes of getting ſome evidence in the papers againſt the author.

The viceroy by theſe, having ſettled the plan of operations, with his managers and vice-managers, opened the diet with a ſpeech from the throne, which was levelled at ſome diſtorted ſentences in the papers of *Rutilius*. His excellency's agents were well inſtructed how to act upon the hint. They iſſued writs for the filling up vacant ſeats, and before any of the members, but the creatures of the court were aſſembled; they cenſured the papers of *Rutilius*; and, upon no other teſtimony to prove him the author, than the ſending thoſe papers which *Rutilius* delivered the viceroy, by his ſecretary to the houſe, *Rutilius* was, unhearing and unheard, declared to be the author, voted an enemy to his country, and an infringer of the privileges of the diet. For which, he was, without any legal trial, doomed to gaol firſt, and then to baniſhment.

Being thus diſqualified for election, an other citizen in the popular intereſt was ſet up, and the election

election came on. But, the grief and confuſion, into which the citizens were thrown, by this unparalleled act of violence, took off their attention, hopeleſs of all ſucceſs; ſo that while they in deſpondency and diſorder neglected to give their votes, the ſlaves of the managers and ſcapins doubled their diligence in ſuch a manner, that one of the ſcapins of glummer principles carried his election by a conſiderable majority; while *Dighſlatſchius* with difficulty got about an hundred majority of the glymmer ſcapin.

The elected were returned to the houſe, and took their ſeats accordingly. But, no ſooner was the return made, than a petition againſt undue influence and unfair election of *Dighſlatſchius* was preſented to the houſe. And tho' the very evidence, produced by the petitioner, plainly proved every allegation of the petition falſe and groundleſs; yet was the election of this legal, popular member ſet aſide, by the arbitrary power of an herd of the commons in faction aſſembled, upon no better a pretext than a pretended connexion with the exiled *Rutilius*; but with the important view of taking in a fitter tool for the ſhameful purpoſes of an adminiſtration hardened in iniquity, and to break the popular power and freedom of the citizens for ever. Here is a piece of tyranny not to be paralleled in the annals of any people yet known; tyranny founded upon falſehood and iniquity; yet eſtabliſhed under the colour and ſanction of law.

I judged it neceſſary to dwell more minutely on this point, becauſe without this or ſome ſuch ſhock, the conſtitution of *Nordweg* could hardly have been brought to a final diſſolution. The commons had long before wreſted elections in this manner, out of the hands of inferior communities; but this was the firſt time they had directly preſumed to aſſail the

the head; and the attempt, being attended with ſucceſs, proved the laſt, the final blow: whatever ſtruggles were after this made, were but like the agonies of an expiring reprobate; violent indeed, but of ſhort duration.

The managers and viceroy now triumphed, not only over the broken candidates, but over the inſlaved city and the undone kingdom. The citizens mourned and raged. But they ſaw no refuge left. An armed force was kept ready to awe or to maſſacre them. So all their murmurs in time ſubſided: for ſlavery, like an evil habit of body, by time becomes familiar and habitual.

But, the citizens of *Bergen*, were not the only mourners for this ſad cataſtrophe. Many even of the commons not only lamented the loſs of a man, that might have been uſeful, if not an ornament to the ſtate; but ſaw with horror his untimely fate, and the iniquitous precedent made in condemning him, without even the form of a legal trial or a juſt charge of any real crime, as well as the ſhocking precedent of preventing the ſubjects chuſing their own repreſentatives, or rejecting their repreſentatives, when legally appointed.

Theſe points being thus carried to the ſatisfaction of the viceroy and his managers, as well as to that of their miniſterial maſters; every thing elſe went ſmoothly thro' the diet for the reſt of the ſeſſion, as the court wiſhed or directed. Indeed, they were obliged to pay their proſtitutes. Places were given and penſions multiplied to the truſty agents in iniquity. After theſe gratifications, the viceroy judged it no unſeaſonable time to put in for ſomething for himſelf. He therefore applied for a penſion of two thouſand crowns a year, which he found no difficulty of obtaining for life. Thus was virtue,

puniſhed

puniſhed, and iniquity rewarded in *Nordweg* and in *Danemarch*.

The populace ſaw all theſe things with an evil eye. And many men of ſenſe were ſhocked at meaſures that tended to nothing leſs than the immediate deſtruction of the nation. The multitude at length grew inſolent to the inſlavers, eſpecially to the viceroy, and at laſt became ſo outragious, that the civil power was quite unable to reſtrain them within peaceable bounds. The viceroy could not now appear in public, without ſome violent inſult being thrown in his face. To prevent which, he doubled his guards and their ammunition, and planted armed men in all the places of public reſort, to keep the people from noiſe and repining. Finding this ſerve only to incenſe them the more, and dreading his life in danger; as ſoon as he cleared the treaſury, he reſolved to go as privately as poſſible to *Danemarch*.

But, he was watched too narrowly to eſcape unobſerved. He did not now venture any where without a ſtrong guard. But, his guards were not able to prevent the multitudes hiſſing, hooting and groaning whereſoever he appeared; the utmoſt end a guard could anſwer was to keep the populace from laying violent hands upon the object of their juſt reſentment and averſion. He ſaw this; and when the heat of the ſeſſion was over, and all his iniquity compleated, he began to feel thoſe compunctions that generally attend guilty minds, and dreaded he ſhould not be able to enjoy in peace the hardly earned fruits of his ſhameful adminiſtration. He gave orders, as privately as poſſible, to have his guards of horſe and foot doubled, and to have all his minions and managers to attend his imbarkation the next day.

This

This could not be kept a ſecret. The citizens heard of it, and they prepared, amidſt his numerous train of mercenaries and civil proſtitutes, to give him a proper ſalute at his departure. Bonefires were made all over the town, eſpecially about the water ſide. The ſtreets, through which he paſſed, were filled with men, and the windows with women and children. And there was not a mouth ſilent, nor an hand at reſt. Nor was the multitude contented with hiſſings, hootings, howlings, yellings, groanings, clappings, and all the diſcordant, ſhocking ſounds, that the natural organs of the incenſed could raiſe; but numbers of the mob were furniſhed with rattles, catcalls, owlcalls, ſowgelders horns, ſpeaking-trumpets, kettles, clevers and marrow-bones, frying-pans and tongues, and every thing that could be deviſed, with an horrid jargon of untuneful ſounds, to wound the ear and diſtract the ſenſes.

Thus was the feint image of a worthleſs king attended through the ſtreets. The guards did not preſume to interpoſe; the leaders having orders to ſet them on, only when the mob ſhould have ran to extremities. The viceroy well knew and dreaded what he deſerved. Bonefires and noiſe were ſomething ſo mild beyond expectation, that he bore it, as a coward has been known to bear ſpitting in the face, when ſenſible he deſerved a kicking. So true is it, that conſcience makes cowards of us all.

But, if this petty tyrant had dared in an hoſtile manner to reſent this diſgraceful treatment, it was prudently put in a great meaſure out of his power: the guards came only to the ſide of the little narrow bay, on which he embarked. But, the incenſed multitude were chiefly placed on the oppoſite ſide, from whence they unmoleſted aſſailed his ears and eyes, with all they jarring inſtruments of

diſcord, and the exulting blazes of bonefires. There was no abatement of theſe diſtracting ſounds, but while the ſhrinking, ſhuddering tyrant was hailed by ſpeaking trumpets, and charged with all the nefarious crimes of his accurſed adminiſtration. Each recitative of his guilt was followed by peals of groans and other hideous ſounds; all which continued, till he got out of hearing of them, and then the bells were ſet to ringing, while the night ſeemed loſt in the joyful illumination of every houſe.

This ſpirited reſentment of the tyrant's conduct, the firſt that had for a long time been known in *Nordweg*, reached *Danemarch* ſooner, than the fell object of the public hate. Its progreſs could not be ſtopt till it gained the royal ear. Though the king did not love the *Nordwegians*, thoſe of *Bergen* eſpecially, who retained and lately ſhewed the ſtrongeſt ſenſe of liberty; yet he did not chuſe to ſhew his contempt of them, openly, nor approve of any violence offered them, leſt it ſhould mar his projects. Beſides, however he might have liked the treaſon, he needs muſt hate the traitor. This added to his former reſentment and juſt averſion to *Yarringburgh* on another account, gave the king a fair pretext to diſmiſs one abandoned ſlave his ſervice. Therefore, he ſtript this, of all his offices, and forbad him the court.

The late lofty tyrant of *Nordweg* now ſaw the ſad reverſe of that ſovereign ſway, with which he ſo rapidly over-ran and ſpoiled the people of *Nordweg* in general, thoſe of *Bergen* in particular. He incurred his maſter's open and fatal avowal of his ſecret averſion to him; brought on the hatred of the few good men, and the general contempt of the multitude. He ſet out a tyrant, but he died a ſlave: and his hateful memory was buried in oblivion with his putrid corſe.

In

In all this however, the wretched *Yarringburgh* was not ſolely to be blamed: it was found, a little before his death, that he was but a tool to his craſty ſucceſſor, who lurked for, and ſtept into his ſeat, and by artful contrivances gained ſuch an aſcendant over the poor declining king, as ſecured him the firſt employments, till he at length procured himſelf a penſion of four thouſand crowns a year, for life.

Thus *Yarringburgh*, after duping many, lived to ſee himſelf duped. But, having no opportunity of retalliation, nor proſpect of coming again into play; inſtead of politics, he laid himſelf out for gratifying his more private paſſions. In this too, his powers failed him; ſo that he was at length, forced to content himſelf, with having his ears tickled now and then with a tale of bawdry. For this, he choſe the lewdeſt boaſter of laſcivious feats, to be found. And, that all his proſtitutes may not appear unpaid, he rewarded the ſole excellence of this minion, with a ſmall penſion for his profligate life. Such were the tools that wrought the deſtruction of *Nordweg* firſt and then of *Danemarch!*

Who, with the common affections of humanity, can read this detail of the horrid cruelties, thus practiſed upon the unfortunate *Nordwegians*, unmoved? But, what *Briton* could refrain his indignation, had any king of *England* been found capable of appointing ſuch vicegerents, of countenancing ſuch unheard-of iniquities? How much more merciful is the *Gallic* deſpot, who at a breath dooms multitudes to gallies, gaols or exile? or the more chriſtian *Turk*, who commits ſo many necks to the care-eaſing ſabre? When the blood of the preſent race can ſate the tyrant's luſt; how much more merciful is it to take their lives, than to intail deſtructive ſlavery on generations yet unborn? Yet, of this later caſt, was the tyranny of perfidious *Danemarch*, while her ſpurious ſons ſet themſelves up as

perfect patterns of liberty at home!—How unlike the heroic monarchs, the noble, the valiant, the legitimate ſons of *Great Britain* and *Ireland?* Let who will draw the compariſon. Let you and me keep clear of home; and ſeek for more cheerful company abroad.

LETTER X.

YOU probably will now aſk, did wretched *Nordweg* long ſurvive theſe deadly wounds? In name alone ſhe did, but even that, not long. Her places of profit and truſt, whether in the church, the army or the ſtate, that were deemed worthy of the acceptance of the meaneſt of *Daniſh* favourites or their creatures, on ſuch were all conferred. No wonder then her vices, moral as well as political, ſhould be, as they were, multiplied, rendered complicate, intractable, incurable.

The ſituation of the country, and the neceſſity of the people, conſpired to extend their trade, in ſpight to *Daniſh* oppreſſions. And the riches, this brought in, joined with the induſtry of the viceroy and managers, introduced the extremes of luxury. No *Nordwegian* of fortune could now be ſeen to eat a meal of wholeſome, native food. Three or four of the remoteſt quarters of the globe muſt be ranſacked to furniſh out a rich tradeſman's breakfaſt or afternoon's repaſt. And ſervants in time caught the genteel infection of their maſters. Spruce beer, the ſtrengthening liquor of their forefathers, fell to the hinds and labourers alone. While the intoxicating liquors, with the deſtructive modes of *France*, became fatally neceſſary to all.

This luſt for foreign luxuries, cauſing a conſiderable increaſe in the imports, occaſioned an unſought and unforeſeen redundance of the public funds. So that the impoſts, calculated to raiſe certain ſums for the public emergencies, after theſe were all

all anſwered, left near eighty thouſand crowns in the treaſury, all demands, illicit as well as juſt, being fully diſcharged.

The nation having been before run in debt, upon the ſame pretext with *Danemarch*, the public hoped ſome good might reſult from their vices; that their luxuries increaſing the public revenues, far beyond any demands the government had hitherto thought fit to make, the redundance might be applied to the payment of the national debt.

The court looked upon this redundance with another eye: they fooliſhly imagined, and dreaded, it was a proof of the riches, though it was evidently the poverty and ruin, of the nation. It was now judged a convenient time to ſet up a claim to this treaſure, in behalf of the crown. And the better to ſecure it, as well as to give ſome favourite an opportunity of reaping ſome private advantages from this wealth in the treaſury, the count de *Dorenſaght* was again pitched upon as viceroy, a man converſant in the ways of the people, among whom, he ſtill artfully retained ſome reputation and a conſiderable intereſt. This was ſuppoſed to be the crafty contrivance of the count and his primate.

This nobleman ſet out in all reſpects well qualified to fulfil the intentions of the court, which in ſmall inſtances, as well as great, appeared to be nothing leſs than the impoveriſhing and inſlaving the *Nordwegians*. This viceroy was again well received in *Nordweg*. He was attended by one of his ſons, who had made a figure in the univerſity, and to whom he had already given a high commiſſion in the army and one of the firſt civil employments; which created him many dependants. Some of theſe thought it a pity, their young maſter could not have a diſpenſation to hold a biſhopric or ſome good eccleſiaſtical preferment, in commendam, with his civil and military employments. It had often, indeed,

indeed, been under conſideration, to make one man hold many offices, rendering him anſwerable for the conduct of his ſubſtitutes. It was ſeen, that this was a very compendious and ſure method of ruling an inſlaved people, could the principals be relied on. But, the number of creatures and tools to be gratified, made the ſcheme pretty much impracticable in *Nordweg*, as well as in *Danemarch*; tho' powerful favourites held ſeveral pluralities of employments, as well in church as ſtate.

When the viceroy had prepared his managers, and inſtructed his truſty minions to execute his projects, he opened the diet. He declared the king's invariable love for the people; his joy in their proſperity. And he recommended their providing laws for the encouragement of arts and ſciences; by which, he meant only manufactures and fiſhery, not commerce; for in this, they were allowed but a very ſmall ſhare. He recommended perſeverance in their accuſtomed affection and loyalty, and unanimity and diſpatch in their councils. And aſſured them, he had nothing to aſk, but the uſual ſupplies for the ſupport of the eſtabliſhment: he was ſilent with reſpect to the ſurplus in the treaſury; for that, he meant to ſeize on, as the inconteſtible property of the crown.

This declaration however, was but the neceſſary, the uſual covering for the deepeſt deſigns of viceroys. Their ſpeeches indeed, were now always written for them. And though they were not always the moſt ſenſible, juſt, or even correctly expreſſed; as they were written by the ſame hand that made the king's ſpeech, from which they were generally, *mutatis mutandis*, taken; and as the king's ſpeech, ſuch as it was, was acceptable to the mighty *Danes*; if the viceroy's could poſſibly be ſome degrees worſe, it muſt have been good and acceptable enough, to the wretched *Nordwegians*,

who

who were now hardly to be allowed choice or judgment in any thing.

This ſpeech ſerved to give the neceſſary hints to the inſtructed tools of the court; while it was approved as fair, open and honeſt, by the undeſigning and unwary.

The commons, as well as the nobles, anſwered this ſpeech affectionately and reſpectfully; complimenting the count upon his experienced wiſdom and approved regard to the country. And, in addreſſes to the king, among many terms of adulation, if not ſervility, thanked him for this new proof of his paternal affection to his loyal ſubjects of *Nordweg*, in ſparing ſo valuable a counſellor a ſecond time from his royal preſence, and ſending ſo juſt and worthy a repreſentative of his majeſty to rule his faithful people.

It muſt have been inconſiſtent with the dignity, derogatory to the ſagacity of the diet, to ſee any thing wrong in a character ſo well eſtabliſhed as that of this revered viceroy. But, *Nordwegian* as well as *Daniſh* diets had now been often known to ſtoop to flattery and falſhood, as well as their maſters. Honeſt men might have taken ſuch declarations as theſe for realities; but men converſant with the world, knew them to be but rank diſſimulation, on both ſides; what well-bred liars in our days call, words of courſe.

The commons, under the late viceroy, became exceſſively unpopular, and hateful to ſuch a degree, that it was with the utmoſt difficulty *Rutilius* was able to ſave them from the hands of the enraged populace, who reſolved to maſſacre an herd of perfidious betrayers of the public liberties. This, they certainly had effected, had not this man's authority ſeconded his humanity. The public indignation was then but ſuſpended, not appeaſed: for, the exiled *Rutilius* ſtill lived in every generous heart.

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As the exceſſive weight of the national debt was one of the greateſt evils complained of by this and the other pupular tribune; the commons thought to leſſen the reſpect paid theſe, and acquire ſome for themſelves, by laying hold of the opportunity of an overflowing treaſury, to leſſen the burden of the public debt. They therefore prepared a bill for applying the redundant money in the treaſury, to this purpoſe; which for a while gained them ſome degrees of credit and popularity. But, it did not laſt long.

This however, was a ſtroke, the court could not have expected: it was never doubted, that all the money might at any time be applied to whatever purpoſes the king or his miniſters thought fit; otherwiſe, ſuch a bone of contention had probably been, by royal authority, graciouſly removed, before the diet had aſſembled. It was not however yet found convenient or neceſſary to come to a direct rupture with men, who never yet gave any remarkable oppoſition to the dictates of power. It would indeed be impolitic to quarrel with a people, who were ever willing to be taxed to any expence, to bribe their repreſentatives, even to their undoing: they, like the *Danes*, placed their utmoſt hope and all their truſt in their diets. While they had theſe frequently aſſembled, they feared no invaſion of the political conſtitution poſſible; they thought themſelves beyond the reach of danger. Yet we ſhall ſee, that the diets of both kingdoms ſoon wrought their reſpetive ruin. Such is the difference between thoſe *Nordwegian* and *Daniſh* diets, and our *Iriſh* and *Engliſh* parliaments! O *Britain!* live for ever!

The court documented all her ſlaves in the diet, ordering them to oppoſe this bill, and ſave her the trouble of ſhewing the force of her ſingle arm in commanding obedience to her ſovereign will. But,

the

the demands and expectations of theſe worthy ſervants roſe with the redundancy in the treaſury. They looked for additional rewards, and for want of thoſe, with ſome other unforeſeen accidents, the bill paſs'd the commons, ſeting forth the national debt, reciting the ſurplus money in the treaſury, and enacting, that it ſhould be applied, as far as it could extend, to the diſcharge of a part of the debt. It was then ordered to be ſent to the viceroy, addreſſing him to ſend it in the uſual form to be approved by the king and his ſenate in *Danemarch*.

Now the court thought its projects foiled, if not its rights invaded: they did not yet think it ſeaſonable to refuſe the application of public money to the diſcharge of the public debt. But, as they were determined to infix a property in all preſent and future redundancies, at any rate, by any means; they inſerted a clauſe of a moſt extraordinary nature in the preamble of the bill. And by taking care to inſtruct and gratify all their minions to the higheſt, they got it paſt, clogged as they wiſhed.

While any ſenſe of liberty, any regard to the conſtitution remained, after *Gortſman*'s law, in *Nordweg*; it was a determined rule with the commons to reject any money bill, in which the leaſt alteration was made either by the nobles, the viceroy and ſenate of *Nordweg*, or the king and his ſenate in *Danemarch*.

But, luxury and conſequent poverty and corruption, introduced more politeneſs; ſo that altered or even dictated bills were received and paſs'd by both houſes.

It was alſo ever heretofore deemed a fundamental principle of their policy, that the king or his repreſentative ſhould know nothing of the proceedings in any houſe or chamber of the diet, till it was offered for the royal aſſent. Hence money bills were ever paſt upon the petition, remonſtrance or offer of the commons; as all other public bills were,

upon recitals of the cauſes that made a ſtatute neceſſary, and then enacting the proviſions for or againſt the recited wants or evils.

All this was done without any influence, any interpoſition or knowledge of the king, without any mention of his name, but in a prayer, that it may, for the reaſons recited, be enacted, by his majeſty, with the joint conſent and authority of the nobles and commons. And tho' this was known to the moſt ignorant to be an eſſential, an invariable part of the conſtitution; yet were all the ſpeaking members in both houſes, with a great majority of their dependants, ſo far bribed by places, penſions or promiſes, as to make them proſtitute themſelves to ſlavery, diſgrace and infamy; to give up the people's right to the preſent and all future ſurplus money in the treaſury; to acknowledge it at the diſpoſal of the crown; and not only tō permit interpolations to be made in money bills, but to alter the eſſential form of a ſtatute, and to ſuffer the king or the viceroy to dictate or give leave to the commons, to frame a bill for the diſpoſal of money; which, after the exigencies for which it was provided were anſwered, by every rule of reaſon and of law, muſt have reverted to the doners.

This was done by inſerting, in the recital of a certain ſum of ſurplus money in the bill, words implying the king's property in that ſum, and his conſent to the framing and paſſing ſuch a bill. This might ſeem to ſome a moſt gracious condeſcenſion, a ſpecial grace and favour, had the money belonged to the crown. But, it was the reſult of taxes, granted for the ſervice of the public, by accident increaſing to a greater ſum than could be expended for the ſervice intended. Common ſenſe alone is ſufficient to ſhew, that this muſt have belonged to the doners, and muſt have lain only at the diſpoſal of the diet, not otherwiſe.

But,

But, political proſtitution now declared for the newly aſſumed prerogative; the alteration in the bill, being a precedent for changing the eſſential form of ſtatutes, and a tacit, if not a direct, acknowledgement of the king's ſole right to the diſpoſal of the money in queſtion, and a declaration of his power of interfering with, limiting and directing, the deliberations of the diet, was with inconſiderable oppoſition received, and without a diviſion, paſt, both in the houſe of commons and in that of the nobles.

The populace, whoſe hopes were raiſed by the ſetting out of the commons, were now greatly incenſed at the diſappointment. However, ſome accidents concurred to calm their rage and keep up ſome ſparks of hope. The heighth of the rewards given to gain this point, the boundleſs extent of them in places and penſions to the remoteſt relations and dependants of powerful members, together with the diſcovery of ſome equality in the diſtribution, ſerved to raiſe a new ſpirit of oppoſition, among thoſe that had not before been taken in: this was found the ſure way to preferment, while the greatneſs of the rewards contributed to raiſe jealouſies among thoſe who had been amply paid for their proſtitution, when they ſaw others obtain greater favours. In ſhort, the whole body of the commons expected to be taken in, and thoſe that ſhared moſt in the plunder, thought themſelves not ſufficiently conſidered. So each with himſelf reſolved to raiſe his value, and to procure better terms than were yet offered; knowing the deſperate ſervice demanded exorbitant wages.

They ſaw the government had gained one great point; for the facilitating which, they thought themſelves intitled to much higher rewards; as of all aſſaſſins, parricides ſhould be the beſt paid. Now, they reſolved to make a few experiments to ſhew

their weight and value with the government, and to keep the populace in ſome hope and good humour.

They began with voting ſome money for public purpoſes. Which the viceroy and managers ever looked upon as ſo much drawn out of their private coffers. The next thing of any conſequence done, beſides the ſetting aſide ſome fair elections, in the uſual manner, was the ſetting on foot an enquiry into the conduct of ſome officers of the crown in the laying out of public money. This was at once the moſt juſt and unprecedented proceeding, this long-lived diet had ever known.

As a pretext to gloſs over the drawing great ſums of money out of the treaſury, almoſt every viceroy was countenanced with a grant of a certain ſum, for ſome certain purpoſe, others for an unlimited ſum for the general good of the ſtate. Under cover of this, every viceroy, with the help of his ſharing managers, took what money he thought fit, and the more, if he was never to return again, upon aſſurance of never being called to an account. Thus money was granted for fortifications, arms, *&c.* to ſeveral viceroys, who never offered any account, nor were ever called to for one. Yet ſuch an inquiry was now thought a good means for trying the ſtrength of parties, and quieting the murmurs of a diſcontented and a dreaded populace.

The commons pitched upon a creature of the viceroy, by him appointed to build and repair forts, garriſons, harbours, *&c.* under an addreſs of their houſe. They might have pitched as well upon any other perſon intruſted with the diſburſement of public money, and for any length paſt, as well as for the preſent time, and they could have found nothing but extravagance and fraud. But, partly from

from private pique, this officer was ſingled out, precipitately cenſured, ordered to make his work better, and to give fairer accounts.

This pleaſed the populace, while it gave great offence to the court, who, never ſuſpecting any enquiry of this nature, was not ſufficiently prepared to oppoſe it. The ſeſſion of the diet ſoon after this ended: when, to put this officer out of the reach of the cenſure of the commons, as ſuperſeded viceroys are, he was permitted to ſell his employment, before the next aſſembly of the diet.

The viceroy thought the reſentment of the commons would cool before the next ſeſſion, or that when the object of it was removed, they would not purſue their vengeance further. Moreover, he in effect ſet them at defiance by this ſtep. And inſtead of ſoothing them, as heretofore, into good humour, with the ſunſhine of ſmiles, when places or promiſes were not given; he now reſolved to try what an haughty carriage might effect; and therefore, putting ſome in mind of what they had got, what they then poſſeſſed and held only during the pleaſure of the crown; he intimated ſome menaces of depriving them of theſe benefits, if they did not forthwith concur with the meaſures, for which they were thus amply rewarded.

This was but a wrong ſtep. Men who did every thing required, while they were gratified, were intitled to higher wages, when greater ſervices than ordinary were expected. This was the ſcheme of government till now. And when once a threat was uttered againſt one placed or penſioned member, many others in the like circumſtances, dreading the ſame fate, ſaw no means of ſecuring themſelves or procuring higher terms, than joining and thereby letting the viceroy ſee their value, by the power of their oppoſition. By this means a coalition of parties

was

was brought about, which this viceroy was never able to diſſolve.

The buſineſs of the ſeſſion being concluded, the viceroy returned to *Danemarch*. Where he found his principal and the whole people well pleaſed with his ſervices. He returned at the uſual time to hold the diet in *Nordweg*, where he found the commons and the whole people in a worſe diſpoſition, if poſſible, than he left them. However, it was now thought time to try what threats might effect; and by all means, to puſh this people to extremity. It could not to be ſure be doubted, that there could be any difficulty in making them yield by force to any meaſures, when foul corruption had ſwayed their actions for ſo many years, without a notion of any other motive.

All that had any thing to ask or to fear from the government, all its creatures in the church, the army, and the ſtate, and all the bribed band of penſioned or promiſe-fed dependants, were ordered, under the penalty of the court's diſpleaſure, to coincide, with their utmoſt might, in promoting the meaſures of the government; in every particular of which they were carefully inſtructed.

Some few thought too well of the king to ſuppoſe he could authorize ſuch iniquitous, ſlaviſh meaſures. Others formed ſtrong connexions with powerful factions, from which they promiſed themſelves nothing leſs, than ſhewing the viceroy, by a queſtion or two, that they were neceſſary to him, and therefore, worth his purchaſe at any price propoſed; while an inconſiderable number, from motives purely conſcientious, oppoſed themſelves to the ſhameful purpoſes of the government, and ſome few moderate or timid members ſteered a middle courſe between the extremes of the court and the new patriots.

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In one of the firſt meetings of the commons, they reſumed the ſubject of the engineer, the officer, cenſured the laſt ſeſſion. They found, no regards were paid to their orders. Upon which, they were going to proceed againſt him with rigour, calling him, as before, the engineer. Accordingly the engineer was ſummoned before the houſe. He appeared to be a quite different man, who had by no means offended; the real object of their wrath being removed. He however was eaſily found out; for he was a member of the houſe, where he thought himſelf quite out of the reach of his adverſaries. But, their rage was now raiſed too high to know any narrow bounds: they expelled him the houſe, paſſed a bill, making his eſtate anſwerable for the impoſition by him laid upon the public. The former part of the cenſure, the commons themſelves executed; but the latter part, which required the concurrence of royal power, was laid aſide; for the viceroy and his managers gave open proof of their intentions, by rejecting the bill with indignation in the ſenate.

This ſtep of the commons, ſo unuſual, ſo unexpected, greatly raiſed the drooping ſpirits of the populace; while the meaſures of the viceroy extremely irritated both the diet and people. The citizens of *Bergen* gave public teſtimony of their regard to the one and contempt of the other: every member that appeared reſolute in oppoſition to a court, now avowedly bent upon the ruin of the people, was careſſed and honoured; while the viceroy and his managers and creatures were hiſſed and hooted in the open ſtreets and public places.

Notwithſtanding all this, the viceroy was yet perſwaded he ſhould carry his point, by corruption, or by open force. While the commons, on the other hand, aſſured themſelves, they would by their union, ſeconded by the cries of the populace, be able to conquer

conquer the pride and obſtinacy of this governor, and procure higher wages for themſelves, if not from him, from his ſucceſſor. No wonder then they ſtood out, with ſuch ſeeming reſolution, that ſo great virtue never appeared in a diet in *Nordweg*: for, except ſtrengthening the prevailing party by overturning the elections of all new members, that were not of their ſide, they did nothing that had not the higheſt approbation of the moſt honeſt and diſcerning men. They might have deceived the very elect.

LETTER XI.

THE next queſtion of importance to come before the commons was, with reſpect to the diſpoſal of more ſurplus money, ariſing as the laſt did ſince the preceding aſſembly of the diet. Beſides what was by votes diſpoſed of for public uſes, a bill was brought in for the diſpoſal of the reſidue, in diſcharge of the national debt.

Neither the viceroy or his managers could have doubted the precedent's taking place in this, which was made in the laſt aſſembly of the diet. But, the commons, who reſolved to ſet themſelves in oppoſition to the chief governor, whether right or wrong; now laid aſide their former inviolable regard to dietical precedents, and ſo fiercely ſet themſelves againſt their own proceedings in the laſt aſſembly, as to ſuffer no bill to paſs, or even to be a ſecond time read in the houſe, that glanced at any previous conſent of the crown to the framing, debating upon or paſſing any bill, and leaſt of all a bill for the diſpoſal of public money. Thus the commons, thro' pure oppoſition, reſumed the ſacred rights they had given up in the laſt preceding aſſembly. This

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was attended with the loudeſt acclamations and applauſes of a people, tranſported with ſuch ſemblances of good ſenſe and virtue, as they had never before experienced, in the diet. They therefore began to think the commons were converted, and to conceive warm hopes of a ſpeedy reformation.

The bill was ſent in due form to the viceroy, who ſoon determined to alter it to the minds of himſelf and his maſter, upon the plan of the former bill. And being in ſome meaſure authorized by precedent, thought he ſhould incur no evil imputation, by forcing the commons to pay dietic regard to dietic precedents, and ſo making them act conſiſtent with themſelves, in one inſtance.

He and his ſenate therefore ſoon reformed the bill, and ſent it in the uſual form to the king and his ſenate at *Copenhagen*. Thence, it was returned without alteration, being found literally agreeable to the bill for the like purpoſes paſt in the laſt aſſembly. Thus it was ſent down to the commons, not without denouncing loud threats of ſpeedy vengeance, againſt all creatures and dependants of the crown, as well againſt ſuch as ſhould oppoſe it in the houſe, as againſt thoſe that ſhould not exert their utmoſt influence and authority to procure its being paſt.

The confederate commons now plainly ſaw, that they could have no chance of keeping their places, ſo good as by remaining firm in their oppoſition. They eaſily judged what meaſures they were to expect, if this, or any ſucceeding governor ſhould find, he might carry points without them; and were likewiſe ſenſible, the ſureſt way of bringing the viceroy to their terms, was by letting him know and feel how much he was in their power.

Few arguments could be neceſſary to determine the actions of men thus prepoſſeſſed. The reformed bill was brought in and debated in ſuch a manner as

to ſhew how ignorant, how ſervile or how factious either party was: the courtiers could urge no rule of right for declaring the public funds undiſpoſed of by the diet, at the ſole diſpoſal of the crown. They dwelt only on the force of precedents and the ſacred rights and prerogatives of the crown, whoſe wiſdom, juſtice and paternal love of the people, with thoſe of his moſt gracious viceroy, they extolled to the ſkies. They ſhewed how ungrateful, as well as how unprecedented a thing it was to deny either, a confidence ever heretofore repoſed in their predeceſſors. And declared, the alterations made in the bill could not be ſuppoſed, were they, as they ſurely were not, inſidious in any ſenſe; to be ſtrained to ſerve any purpoſe prejudicial to the diet or people of *Nordweg*, by any branch of the illuſtrious family on the throne, or the preſent gracious viceroy; who had already given this kingdom ſo many proofs of his affectionate regards.

Theſe were heretofore, upon the like occaſions, the ſtanding arguments of thoſe that now oppoſed the government. They could not then be ſuppoſed to offer the weighty arguments, that good ſenſe and virtue ſhould ſuggeſt upon this occaſion. They did not attempt to ſhew, what every man of ſenſe muſt ſee, that whatever aroſe from any tax, over and above the ſum, for the raiſing of which it was granted, muſt have reverted to the doners; for the ſame reaſon, that any tax falling ſhort in producing the granted ſum, the deficiency is ever to be made up by a new grant from the diet. They did not attempt to explain the danger and the iniquity of making a precedent for the king's interpoſing in the debates in the diet, claiming a ſole right to the diſpoſal of the redundancies of the public funds, and overturning the eſſential form of a ſtatute. Each carried a more forcible argument about him. Each had long lived

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a pernicious, preternatural excreſcence upon the vitals of the public. Each blood-ſucker had become ſo prodigal, that his own patrimony, as well as the public treaſure, was exhauſted to ſupport his luxury and pride. And the loſing what they drew from the public, or the miſſing of the honours or other preferments, they had in view, was to ſuch more terrible than death. Therefore, ſtick cloſe was the word. The exigencies of the public was the pretext. The force of precedents was exploded. The common rights to be conſidered. Diffidence in the king, his family or his viceroy, diſclaimed. The prerogative was beſt ſupported by preſerving the freedom and rights of the diet inviolable. Therefore, the bill as it ſtood altered, without the conſent or knowledge of the commons, could not be juſtly paſt.

When all that choſe to ſpeak had done, the queſtion was demanded and put, whether the bill ſhould paſs in this form? And it was carried in the negative, to the unſpeakable diſappointment and diſſatisfaction of the whole court; eſpecially, that of the viceroy, who promiſed himſelf and his maſter, that he ſhould have the honour of compleating the diſſolution of *Nordweg*, in order to facilitate and expedite that of *Danemarch*.

The commons on their parts were hardly leſs diſappointed and diſſatisfied. The ring-leaders never intended matters ſhould be brought to this extremity. Every member was aſſured, his demands, however exorbitant, muſt be granted. While the viceroy thought, they were to be as eaſily brought to the lure, as when he was firſt ſent to rule them. Then, the naming of a moderate place or penſion to any member, was enough to ſecure the votes of him and his. But, as the government required greater, harder ſervices; the ſervile members inſiſted upon

greater wages. And ſo, each party miſtaking the other, they reſpectively miſſed their aims.

The importance of this queſtion could not fail of engaging the public attention. The multitude environed the diet, while it was depending. This did not a little edge on the opponents to activity; while it greatly damped the ſpirits of the advocates for it, who were ſo terrified at the ſhouts and acclamations of the populace, that they did not dare to go out of the great doors, nor the direct way home; but ſkulked out at back-doors, even at windows, and ſnaked thro' by-ways, in fear and confuſion.

The next day did not paſs before the viceroy put ſome of his threats in execution: he ſtruck ſome off the liſt of ſenators. He diſcharged ſeveral civil and military officers of the firſt diſtinction; even tho' many of them had actually purchaſed every promotion they enjoyed. And numbers of penſioners, who had for years paſt, well, hardly earned the wages of iniquity, being active in every wicked job; were, for once failing in their obedience, ſtruck off; all to ſhew the reſentment of the government and the length and ſtrength of its arms.

The diſappointed, angry commons alſo on their parts proceeded to extremities. Hitherto, the king might have been ſuppoſed ignorant of all theſe tranſactions, and it was his intenion to be thought ſo, as well in *Nordweg* as *Danemarch*, however deep he might have been concerned in the deſtructive plot. It was the viceroy's buſineſs to keep his maſter clear of all ſuſpicion; well knowing, that the king would give him up, and throw the whole blame of the miſconduct upon his ſubſtitute, whenever ſuſpicion glanced at the royal principal.

Now, the commons were preparing to paſs ſome angry reſolutions againſt the viceroy, and againſt his ſon, upon whom they ſtrongly faſtened the

the charge of influencing elections, and corrupting the elected, as well as ſome glaring abuſes in his ſeveral offices. They reſolved to vindicate their own conduct, and complain of that of the viceroy to the ſovereign; which muſt probably have been attended with fatal conſequences, and blown up the ſchemes of both. But, this the viceroy had addreſs to prevent, by abruptly proroguing the diet, the greateſt part of the public buſineſs being left undone, and even when ſome bills waited only for the royal aſſent, for the paſſing which thro' the different forms of both houſes, thro' the ſenate in *Nordweg* and that in *Danemarch*, the poor *Nordwegians* were forced to pay, whatever might be their fate.

Theſe were ſuch open violences as *Nordweg*, amidſt all her diſtreſſes, had never before experienced. The viceroy was himſelf ſo ſenſible of it, that dreading the conſequence of incenſing the ſovereign, by a miſcarriage; he diſpatched an expreſs to the miniſtry in *Danemarch*, to inform the king and them, that the whole people of *Nordweg*, headed by the diet, were preparing for a general revolt. That as the army kept them in awe and prevented open outrages, the commons reſolved to teſtify their diſaffection by ſeditious and diſloyal votes and addreſſes, in the way of ordinary proceedings of the diet; to obviate which, he had judged it beſt to prorogue a diet, bent more upon miſchief and diſloyalty, than any regard to the public affairs.

This was a diſappointment, which the king could not well bear, who had had repeated aſſurances of his viceroy's compleating his ſchemes in *Nordweg*. However he diſliked it, he thought it beſt to countenance his miniſter longer, to encourage him or his ſucceſſors to perſevere in the inſlaving projects.

The long ſuppreſſed rage of the populace, to whoſe lot fell all the honeſty and public ſpirit of both kingdoms, was now blown up into a raging flame.

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However, they were deterred from any other acts of violence, than meeting in tumults, expreſſing aloud their indignation againſt the viceroy and managers; at whoſe doors alone, they laid all the blame; for they never yet ſuſpected the benevolence of the king. Hence, crowding about the houſes of the oppoſing commons, whom they promiſed to ſupport at the expence of their lives, they ſoon after preſented them with medals ſtruck in honour of the oppoſition upon the memorable occaſion; giving them the moſt reſpectable, but moſt abuſed, title of, the patriots. They ſoon after this, learned the purport of the expreſſes ſent the king, which carried their indignation beyond bounds; for, the viceroy and his ſervants, domeſtic as well as dietic, were groſly inſulted in the public ſtreets; and his ſon, who was at once ſecretary to the regency and ſecretary to the ſenate, dreading the fury of the mob's falling more upon him, who had drawn up and ſent off the falſe diſpatches; thought it moſt adviſeable to retire and never after ſhew his face, in that incenſed kingdom.

Nordweg was never ſince the union of *Calmar*, known in ſuch a ferment, in ſuch a conſternation. And the ſpirit of the populace was every where kept up by clubs and other factious aſſociations, raiſed by the patriots, as the opponents of the court now ſtiled themſelves, as indeed they might with propriety, had their hearts correſponded with their words and actions. But, they were only acting parts, which few had penetration to diſcover.

The people of *Copenhagen* ſoon learned the purport of the viceroy's diſpatches to the crown. They were perſwaded that the *Nordwegians* had riſen in rebellion, and conſcious of the provocations they had been inſtrumental to the giving this people, ſo far dreaded the fury of their juſt reſentment, that inſtead

inſtead of daring to prepare to take arms to oppoſe the inſurrection, they contented themſelves with drawing their effects very abruptly out of the hands of the merchants of *Nordweg*, and inſerting a new petition in their prayers, From the fury of the *Nordwegians*, good Lord deliver us !

The drawing out of time upon the merchants, whoſe imports far exceeded their exports, with the long ſtagnation of a great ſum of the circulating money of the kingdom in the treaſury, concurred with other circumſtances to break ſeveral bankers in the principal cities, and of courſe, reduced numbers of merchants to bankrupts.

This confuſion a little frightened the government; who, ſeeing the daſtardly ſtate of the *Danes*, dreaded a real inſurrection in *Nordweg*, which might not be eaſily quelled. To obviate greater miſchiefs, the viceroy, more prudently than legally, ordered the money in the treaſury to be lent out to ſome favourite bankers and others, and ordered the ſeveral collectors of taxes and impoſts to receive the notes of the remaining bankers, as current money in all payments of the revenues.

This prevented the general extinction of public credit, and helped to appeaſe the enraged multitude. And in a little time after, the king to ſhew his utter contempt of the diet and people of *Nordweg*, and to take to himſelf ſolely the merit of diſcharging the public debt, out of funds of whoſe diſpoſal he lately arrogated to himſelf the ſole right; gave the treaſurer of *Nordweg* his commands to lay out the ſurplus in the treaſury, as far as it might extend, in payment of the national debt. The treaſurer obeyed. And though the diet and people of *Nordweg* muſt have ſeen that the king was at the bottom of all this iniquity, thus diſpoſing by his abſolute power of the property of the public, without the

conſent of them or their repreſentatives; yet, did they not ſwerve a ſingle ſhade from their allegiance and affection to him and his family; but threw the whole blame upon his ſubſtitute, even tho' he appeared but faithful to his truſt.

LETTER XII.

EVERY ſenſible reader will ask, was there no body in either kingdom, that had penetration enough to diſcover the evil tendency of theſe wicked meaſures? virtue enough to oppoſe them? or to alarm the public?—As for the ſtupid, ſhort-ſighted *Danes*, when they found there was no danger of an inſurrection, they exulted at the oppreſſion of their envied brethren. And as for the poor *Nordwegians*, the true ſpirit of liberty fled with the baniſhed *Rutilius*. There were ſome honeſt, ſome diſcerning men left; but none remained, that dared to exert themſelves, as this ill-fated tribune had done, in defence of his country, and in aſcertaining and endeavouring to confine the prerogative royal and the powers of miniſters, within due bounds.

This unfortunate exile was now in *Copenhagen*, where he ſaw and felt all the fatal wounds given his country. He now loſt all hopes of returning home in peace, with honour. He ſaw the honeſt populace made dupes to pretended patriots, who were all actuated by motives that centered all in ſordid ſelf. He had forecaſt enough to judge what the conſequences muſt be. He laid all open to the magiſtrates and citizens of *Copenhagen*. He found one half of theſe glums of the moſt malignant caſt, who drew great hopes of the progreſs of their cauſe from the commotions now raiſed in *Nordweg*. Theſe men at firſt ſight careſſed *Rutilius*, and would have gladly inliſted

inliſted him in their bands. The other half were ſervile courtiers, who called themſelves glyms. Theſe dreaded the commotions in *Nordweg*; becauſe they might prove injurious or troubleſome to the *Daniſh* miniſtry, whom moſt of theſe citizens had the honour of ſerving as bankers, ſtock-jobbers, ſmuglers, mercers, taylors, ſhoemakers or the like; but more eſpecially, becauſe their corrupt and daſtard hearts, had lately felt the moſt horrid pannic, from a moſt inconſiderable rebellious rabble.

Theſe too would have embraced *Rutilius*, had he not treated both parties with equal contempt, ſcorning to join with either. However, he undeceived the elated glums, and removed the fears of the frighted glyms, by aſſuring each, that there was no tendency to a rebellion or inſurrection in *Nordweg*, nor any diſaffection to the king or the royal family.

He ſhewed indeed, that the meaſures of adminſtration for ages paſt, as well as the preſent, were calculated for the overthrowing the political conſtitutions of *Nordweg* and her capital, and that the ſchemes of the projectors were now nearly brought to bear; and, without pretending to the gift of prophecy, demonſtrated, from the connexion of both kingdoms under one head and one form of government, that ſoon after the completion of theſe inſlaving ſchemes in *Nordweg*, which had for ſome time delighted their miſtaken brethren in *Danemarch*; the like meaſures muſt prove no leſs ſucceſsful in diſſolving the political conſtitution of the vaunting, ſelf-ſufficient *Danes*.

As for the preſent commotions, he made it appear, that they were but a conteſt for power between the heads of factions in the commons, and the viceroy and his primate, who now and then found it expedient to let monarchical power looſe upon their opponents. That this would be carried no further than the gratification of the factious leaders in ſome

ſucceeding aſſembly of the diet. That theſe took up a popular queſtion, and got the honeſt, unſuſpecting populace of their ſide, with the ſole intent of giving a weight to their oppoſition, which it could not otherwiſe have had; and proved their candour and zeal but feigned to ſerve a private purpoſe; from theſe conſiderations, that they let the like queſtion paſs without oppoſition in the laſt aſſembly, and that they now gave oppoſition in a manner that ſhewed, that they had taken the popular ſide, without knowing how much they were in the right, as the tenour of their own arguments evinced.

He blamed the credulity of the citizens of *Bergen*, for confiding in the commons, after he had proved their leaders void of ſenſe and knowledge, void of every virtue, of every qualification for their ſtations. Theſe, he publiſhed in two addreſſes to the magiſtrates, ſenate and citizens of *Copenhagen*, the one prefixt to an edition of his works, for which he was exiled by the commons of *Nordweg*, as a caution to the *Copenhageners* and *Danes* in general, and a vindication of his own conduct and character; the other in a complaint or a kind of an appeal to the citizens againſt the conduct of their magiſtrates, in ſuppreſſing the former addreſs.

But, there was not attention enough to any works of this kind, to rouſe the public from a political lethargy, which luxury, effeminacy and corruption had induced. The citizens of *Bergen*, who had yet curioſity enough to read any thing that bore the name of *Rutilius*, were almoſt the only readers of theſe addreſſes. But, their reading of them now ſerved only to leſſen the credit and authority of their late favourite. They ſaw their country and their city expoſed abroad in a contemptible, tho' a true light. This grieved their generous ſpirits. And their pride was hurt, by charging them with being

ſo weak as to be duped by the now prevailing party of the commons, whom they yet looked upon, in a quite different light; for the integrity of the citizens hearts made them readily believe every man, what he profeſſed. Hence they conſidered the oppoſing commons as true patriots, the redeemers of their country, for whom it was not poſſible for the people to ſhew the deſerved love and reſpect. Thus fell at one blow the credit of *Rutilius*, with his late admiring countrymen and fellow citizens; while the reputation of their commons was raiſed to the utmoſt pitch. How juſtly, ſhall be ſhewn in the ſequel.

The viceroy had now finiſhed all the buſineſs he could hope to compaſs this year; and now thought it time to return to the royal preſence. He well remembered the treatment, the incenſed populace gave his predeceſſor, and the fatal conſequences of his infamous exit. He only waited to obviate theſe. But could not for ſome time tell how. He at length recollected how his fellow miniſters in *Copenhagen* were obliged to keep the mob in pay, as much as to hire guards for their maſter. But, upon trial, he found the mob of all *Nordweg*, that of *Bergen* in particular, down to the loweſt porter, ſo inraged againſt his adminiſtration, that it would have been leſs difficult to ſtir them up to maſſacre him and his minions, than to hire them to ſhew him or his creatures any ſort of civility.

While he was intangled in this dilemma, he conſulted *Marlewitz* the chief preſident of the high court. This high juſtice had long been converſant with *Gibcknaves* and *Leiborkins*, inferior civil officers correſponding with our ſub-ſheriffs and hackney-juſtices, whom he had frequently imployed in the baſeſt work. The one ſerved him in packing and corrupting, the aſſeſſors of the ſeveral courts; the

other was imployed as a ſort of thief-trap. The later had offenders brought before him, and by artifices and threats, extorted confeſſions from them, or frightened them into declarations, that left them ſo much in his power, that moſt of thoſe that ſuffered, fell by the illicit evidence of this perverter of juſtice, and theſe were but low tranſgreſſors, who could not, by any profits of pitiful thefts, afford to bribe his worſhip. But, he took care of the brave, hardy, promiſing villains, who knew how to get conſiderable booty. A numerous, truſty band of theſe were now tributary to this practiſed retailer of juſtice. He had them in his power; they were ever at his beck, and he never brought one of them to the gallows, unleſs he found him refractory, backward in his tribute, or likely to turn informer againſt ſome of the truſty miniſters of this miniſter of iniquity.

Such was the man found by the preſident the moſt fit to ſerve the noble viceroy. The *Leiborkin* happened at this time to be obliged to keep out of the way, on account of an impertinent imputation of compoſitions with malefactors, ſomewhat like a miſpriſion of felony. The preſident, who had for ſome time skreened him from law, knew where to find the lurking juſtice. He appeared upon aſſurance of the viceroy's protection. It was propoſed to him to ſecure a ſtrong mob to attend the exit of his excellency, and to ſilence all ſuch as ſhould offer the kind of treatment given his worthy predeceſſor.

The juſtice undertook the task, upon condition of a certain gratuity and ſecurity of a free pardon for his paſt tranſgreſſions, with ſufficient arms and an indemnity for him and his mob in the preſent undertaking. All he asked was granted. A pardon was paſt, a ſum of money out of the treaſury, with cutlaſſes and piſtols out of the arſenal, were given

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for the preſent expedition, and a penſion promiſed upon his ſucceſs.

The aſſurances this ſlave could give, with a favourable interpoſition of the moon, were ſufficient to determine the day of the viceroy's departure. He ſet out in the uſual ſtate, with the addition of ſome hundreds of ruffians, armed with cutlaſſes, piſtols, and other offenſive weapons. This was the court mob. The anti-court mob, unſuſpecting this, had no arms, and therefore, were ſo far ſurprized and intimidated, as to keep ſilence for a while.

At length, ſeeing the viceroy imbark, the anti-court mob began their intended jargons of hiſſing, hooting, ſcreaming and the like; whereupon, the hired court-juſtice gave the word of command to his mirmidons, who furiouſly ſet upon the unarmed populace, killed ſome and wounded ſeveral. The citizens, ſeeing the court riot run to this extremity, thought fit to interpoſe. They aſſailed the courtiers, took ſeveral priſoners and diſarmed them, and put the reſt of the ruffians, with their mercenary commander, to the rout.

The whole city was now alarmed, and the magiſtrates were aſſembled to quell the riot and adjudge the rioters. The citizens brought ſeveral of the offenders before the burgomaſter and ſcapins, who at firſt ſight reſolved to proceed with juſt rigour againſt the offenders. The evidence proved the facts of riot and bloodſhed upon the priſoners, upon which the juſtices were ready to commit them. But, upon calling for the arms found upon them, it appeared that they were the arms of the royal arſenal. This was enough to ſtop the courſe of juſtice in *Bergen*, where the magiſtrates were now the creatures of the government. The priſoners declared how, by whom, and for what purpoſes, arms were delivered them; upon which, for fear of offending

offending the viceroy or his managers, theſe rioters were diſmiſſed, without ſo much as a reprimand. Some attempts were afterwards made to proſecute the riotous court-juſtice. But, tho' the facts were clearly proved upon him, ſo that a leſs dependant court than that of the city muſt have found him guilty; yet, by the interpoſition of the government, he was ſaved harmleſs, and rewarded with a penſion upon the ſtate for life. And about the ſame time, the preſident *Marlewitz*, retired from his office in peace, upon a penſion of eight hundred crowns a year, for his life.

Did ever people ſhew ſuch plain forerunners of a falling ſtate? Did ever people retain the notion or the name of freedom after ſuch violences paſſing unpuniſhed? The world well knows, by precedents on record, how the people of *Britain* would have reſented ſuch treatment given the ſubjects of *Ireland*, by any viceroy or principal. Of this, we have the fulleſt and moſt memorable examples in the caſe of Lord *Strafford* and his ill-counſelled maſter; who both loſt their lives upon much leſs provocation than were now given in *Nordweg* and *Danemarch* by the count *de Dorenſaght* and his maſter *Chriſtiern* IV. of deſpicable memory. Such is the difference between a corrupt, degenerate, ſlaviſh race, and men inſpired with manly ſentiments of virtue and liberty, as *Britons* and their kings have ever proved.

LETTER XIII.

THE count having named the truſty primate, the high chancellor, and the preſident of the commons, his deputies in the regency, and thus ſecured to himſelf a ſafe, tho' an infamous retreat;

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got to *Danemarch*, and to the royal preſence, before any noiſe about the manner of his departure from *Nordweg* could have reached either. And tho' the king was not quite well pleaſed with the ſucceſs of his viceroy's adminiſtration, having expected ſtill greater; yet, his majeſty judged it beſt to countenance his ſubſtitute, in order to conceal his own meaſures; the divulging of which might be fatal, if any ſenſe or virtue had remained. Therefore, to bind him to ſecrecy, as well as to encourage him or his ſucceſſor to go farther upon the next occaſion; the king gave him and his family all public marks of favour.

The ferment among the *Nordwegians* roſe to a great heighth. The commons affected great rage, not only againſt the viceroy, but againſt all his creatures and dependants, and ſpread it univerſally. The primate moſt of all felt the weight of their indignation. He was looked upon as the chief favourite and moſt induſtrious agent of the viceroy. This was his crime. And for this, his maſter, like the prince of darkneſs, left his miniſter in the lurch. And hence the people poured out the dregs of the cup of their wrath upon him. As now, no direct, political evil practices could, with any colour of truth, be laid to this man's charge; and as it was confeſſed he fully diſcharged the ſeveral clerical and epiſcopal duties, as well as thoſe in private life, equal if not ſuperior to moſt of his predeceſſors; ſome means of blaſting his fame with the populace was neceſſary to decry him entirely. An imputation of any ordinary crime could not ſtick. Any ſlight aſperſion might be wiped off, as its falſehood and want of foundation might be ſhewn. Therefore a crime of the moſt black and horrible dye, muſt be trumped up; ſomething ſuch as

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innocence ſhudders at naming, muſt be charged upon him, by inſinuations, whiſpers, jokes and inuendos, in puns, rebuſes and filthy ballads; againſt which, there was not a poſſibility of making any defence.

Nothing ſpreads faſter or farther in degenerate days, than evil fame. This, ſet once on foot, is hardly ever to be ſtopt in its progreſs, before the worſt effects are compleated. The infamy thus infixed, left this gentleman's character at the mercy of an incenſed multitude, who took every opportunity of abuſing this miſtaken object of their indignation. And thus the pretended patriots leſſened the credit and authority of a man, whoſe ſole crime, with regard to the public, was extending the power and ſupporting the authority of his patron. But, they preſumed not to touch upon his real crime; as it would then appear, that each contended but for power, and that it was indifferent whoſe tyranny ſhould prevail. Yet after all, this prelate proceeded to the laſt, with the firmneſs ariſing from conſcious innocence, in the diſcharge of every branch of his complicated functions; for, as one of the rengency, he ſerved in a civil and military capacity, as in his prelatical function, his office was, eccleſiaſtical: Soleciſms in adminiſtration, never known in free governments: for, prieſts of all religions, but that of *Britain*, have ever been proved tyrants or ſlaves; ſometimes both; that is, ſlaves to their ſuperiors, for the ſake of tyrannizing over their inferiors.

The popular cry was daily increaſed in *Nordweg* by the majority of the commons and their adherents; eſpecially by the diſplaced and unpenſioned members, whom the populace now looked upon as martyrs for the cauſe of liberty. It was the higheſt crime to ſuſpect the judgment or integrity of any of theſe. They ſtuck cloſely together, and

omitted no opportunity of heighthening their own credit and depretiating that of their antagonists, with the public. In *Bergen*, they formed as it were one great association or club, from which there were swarms in every other city and county, that seemed to be so many committees deputed by the great society. Such implicit faith was universally paid to these clubs, that whatever transpired from them was deemed oracular, and whatever they dictated was received as law.

These commotions could not fail of reaching *Danemarch*, and frightening that corrupt and dastard people. As the commons might not now legally assemble in form; no regular complaints of grievances could, from that quarter, be offered to the throne. Of this, a factious peer, who had formed some connections with the great in *Danemarch*, took the advantage. This was baron *Ghchildaragh*, whose family were, whenever they were possessed of power, the most seditious, factious and rebellious leaders, the *Nordwegians* had at any time known. They were once attainted for the most unprovoked and unjust rebellions, as well as many of the most cruel and horrible murders. They were however afterwards restored to their rank and regained their patrimony. After which, they became more cautious in offending, and at last grew so calm and pacific, indeed so inconsiderable, that the only man of any eminence this illustrious house for ages produced, was the immediate predecessor of the present noble peer; and his talents rose no higher than those of knitting and sewing, in which he equalled or outdid most of the professed knitters and seamstresses of his time.

The inclinations, though not the talents of the son, reached much farther. His pedigree, of which few peers are ignorant, shewed his family once

held great power in the ſtate. And he could not ſee why he ſhould not, with the family-title and eſtate alone, make as conſpicuous a figure as the beſt of them.

Beſides, his rank and riches had procured him a match with one of the beſt and loveliest of her ſex, the daughter of a family of the firſt dignity and power in *Danemarch*. The principal, if not the ſole family of that kingdom, that had now eſcaped ſevere, deſerved reproach; while this kept clear of all handles to unworthy imputations, but becoming favourites to a worthleſs king. But, it was a diſhonour as undeſerved, as the falſe honours, the titles, laviſhed on the profligate favourites: for, the truly noble perſonage at the head of this family, was foremoſt in every generous act, never engaged in any thing diſhonourable; while his name carried influence and authority, which he could never abuſe. An other of his daughters, more by accident than choice, was matched to a commoner of great wealth and power in *Danemarch*. Such was our *Nordwegian* peer's alliance in *Danemarch*.

Thus allied, and in his own imagination equipped, this noble peer conferred with the patriot club, and undertook to make their caſe known to the ſovereign. The deſperate patriots were glad to get a perſon of this conſequence to join them, and rather than make him an enemy, ſeemed to countenance an undertaking, in which they could not ſuſpect his lordſhip would embark further than a little looſe converſation. However they entered into a ſort of a league with him, offered ſome inſtructions for his conduct, and promiſed with their lives and fortunes to ſupport his lordſhip, while he ſhould keep up to their intentions.

His lordſhip, under the ſanction of this league, ſet out for *Danemarch*. And going to court, at *Copenhagen*, preſented a complaint againſt the late adminiſtration in *Nordweg*, to the king, pointing out the evils to be apprehended from ſuch unjuſt governors.

Had his lordſhip's pride admitted his attending to the inſtructions of the league, and appearing before the ſovereign on behalf of the commons and people, or that of the diet of *Nordweg*; the remonſtrance might poſſibly have had ſome weight with the king. But, when it appeared but a private memorial, moſt inexpreſſive and contemptible, from a ſingle perſon too, whoſe writings and addreſs were as mean as his form and deportment; the king took no notice of it, and was never known to countenance the peer afterwards.

His lordſhip however and his friends plumed themſelves greatly upon the boldneſs and greatneſs of this memorial. It was therefore publiſhed. Many good men eſteemed him honeſt and zealous, that could be ſo hardy as to venture his reputation to expoſe himſelf, in this manner. The deſign of the attempt was generally approved, tho' the execution was deſpiſed. The patriots, who ſaw all with contempt, as his lordſhip made no direct mention of them in his memorial, contemned the performance, while they judged it neceſſary to keep upon terms with the performer; and the populace in general, like drowning rats catching at floating ſtraws, almoſt adored the puny efforts of the peer, while they looked upon him as the redeemer of their *Iſrael*.

In this eſtimation, he returned to *Nordweg*, where he was received with the moſt univerſal, joyous acclamations of a grateful people. This ſhews the ſenſe of virtue and liberty, this oppreſſed peo-

ple ſtill retained. No man could have made an attempt, however weak, to ſerve the cauſe, that did not meet with every act of popular approbation. When they gave this public teſtimony of their generous regards and gratitude to the poor efforts of baron *Ghchildaragh*, what would they not have done for a man of parts, actuated by the pure love of virtue and his country? When they were thus taken with the bare ſemblances of virtue, what would they not have done on ſight of the reality? But, his lordſhip's intentions, and how far he was in earneſt and diſintereſted in this cauſe, will appear in the following lines.

Poor *Rutilius* at this time wandered about *Copenhagen*, diſconſolate and deſpondent; while his ſole purſuits were the ſtudy of the laws of this and other nations. The lovers of his cauſe, who had formerly moſt generouſly ſupported him, at length grew weary of the taſk, and totally neglected and forgot him. However, little as his reputation or real character were known in *Danemarch*, he was able by his profeſſion to gain ſuch a livelihood, even among ſtrangers, as kept him with decency in the beſt company.

The efforts and noiſe of all the pretended patriots made no impreſſion on him, who knew the ſecret ſprings that ſet every one of the active men in motion. He plainly ſaw, their affected regards to the citizens of *Bergen*, indeed to the populace at large, were only ſo many lures to bring theſe to their ſide, that by adding a number of them to the train of any inconſiderable, his value may be inhanſed, as ſingle numeral figures, by the connection of cyphers. He concluded from fairly proved propoſitions, that this was the only uſe the patriots intended to make of the multitude. And all this, he fairly explained from time to time in letters

letters to his former friends, on whom it had no better effect, than cooling their affection to him, and giving grounds to a ſurmiſe, that *Rutilius* was much changed himſelf for the worſe, or he could not have ſuſpected the generoſity and honour of men who outdid the antient patriots of *Greece* or *Rome*. Thus *Rutilius* fell, while more artful men thus roſe, in the public eſteem.

When *Rutilius* firſt ſaw the memorial and the attempts of baron *Ghchildaragh*, he began to conceive ſome hopes of a riſing patriot ſpirit in *Nordweg*, which deſerved, as it required, being applauded and cheriſhed. At leaſt, he reſolved to acquit himſelf, and therefore wrote the following letter;

To the right noble the lord baron of *Ghchildaragh*, *Rutilius Noricus*, health, reſpect, and greeting.

My Lord,

You will probably be ſurprized at an addreſs of this kind from one, ſo unfortunate as to be an utter ſtranger to you. But, when my motives and intentions become known, I hope I ſhall need neither introduction nor apology to your lordſhip.

The bold and generous efforts your lordſhip lately made to avert the impending deſtruction of your country, has recorded you in the book of fame, among the chief friends of poor *Nordweg*.

I, in my humble ſphere, once laid ſome claim to that character, and never thought it could be doubted, that I was intentionally, if not actually, a friend to my unhappy country, till her moſt penetrating, wiſe, grave and mighty diet thought it fit to declare and proſcribe me as an enemy.

Having thus, forcibly rather than legally, drove me into exile, ſtript of my property, and in the de-

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cline of life, in broken health, neceſſitated to ſeek a livelihood among ſtrangers; finding it impracticable to return to my wounded country and ruined family, and deſpairing of ever ſeeing the complicated grievances of poor *Nordweg* redreſſed, from the untoward, daſtard and corrupt diſpoſition of her favourite ſons; I threw aſide the political pen, and gave myſelf up totally to the ſtudy and practiſe of my profeſſion; judging it very allowable, after having long laboured to no good effect for the health of a moſt diſtempered, not to ſay ungrateful, body politic, to conſult the ſupport and well-being of the private body natural, which I never before could think of ſetting in any degree of competition with the public.

It was ſome time before I could work myſelf up to this ſtate of indifference to the public concerns. At length, I ſo effectually alienated my attention from the noiſy political world, that during my exile, I have ſcarcely allowed myſelf to read any thing in this way, not ſo much as a news-paper or the mighty votes of diets.

The treatment I received in my own country, by the lawleſs, tyrannical perſecution of bitter enemies, and the late unaccountable deſertion of my once kind and generous friends, made me now give up *Nordweg*, as an honeſt phyſician would a patient he found paſt all hopes of recovery. They muſt be but ſhallow politicians, that do not now ſee the members and bowels of the ſtate in ſuch a wretched mortification, as admits of no proſpect of cure, but by an entire renovation of the parts; a painful and perilous remedy.

Whether your lordſhip will moſt condemn or applaud my inattention to public affairs, I know not. Some of the prudent ones here judged me in the right. They ſaid it would be but madneſs to meddle

meddle again in any political matters, eſpecially relating to *Nordweg*; that I could hope for no good to my country or myſelf from any attempt within my compaſs, and that from zealous and unſeconded attempts, much miſchief to the public, as well as to myſelf, might be dreaded.

Yet, my lord, regardleſs of all theſe prudential rules, if my former feeble efforts for the common cauſe were madneſs, I fear I have fallen into a relapſe, which is generally ſaid to be more difficult of cure than the original diſtemper.

In my deſpondency, I never thought I ſhould live to ſee a pure patriot riſe to aſſert the abandoned cauſe of poor *Nordweg*. How agreeably was I diſappointed, how were my long drooping ſpirits raiſed, at gracious heaven's moving a perſon of your lordſhip's rank and power to aſſume the glorious character! Till now, I thought my purpoſes fixt; but behold, I was but as tinder, and wanted but free air and a ſpark from baron *Ghchildaragh* to be kindled into actual fire!

In ſhort, my lord, the purport of this crude addreſs is to inform you, that I zealouſly contended for the rights of my country, in my low ſphere, till the oppreſſive hand of lawleſs power robbed me of my liberty and of all means of ſerving the public, at home. Shocked at my inability to promote the good of my country, I bore my exile with pain. But, now that I am placed beyond the tyrant's reach, and find one nobleman of virtue enough to engage in the precarious cauſe; I again reſolve to enter the liſts, ready to ſacrifice my beſt hopes here, to contribute my poor mite to the ſervice of the public.

Thus your lordſhip's generous ſtruggles for the common good, have warmed and enlivened my chilled and drooping heart. I can not conceive your

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motives and intentions, other than virtuous and loyal. I muſt therefore grieve to find them aſſiduouſly, groſly miſrepreſented to all ranks here. I am ſhocked at the indignities offered ſuch noble efforts to procure the redreſs of public grievance, which are a reproach to our government, and which may in the end prove as fatal to the crown, as they are at preſent injurious to the ſubject. I am diſtracted at the contemptible treatment given the diet, though there was not a ſingle member to be found in it, who dared to give his negative to the pronouncing a moſt innocent man, an enemy to his country, *nemini contradicente.* And I muſt with perpetual indignation, behold the violence done even to my perſecutors in the diet, for the firſt inſtance in which they happened to be in the right. I even reſent injuries offered to men that robbed me of all that I held dear in life.

By the treatment offered your lordſhip, it is plain, there is no room to hope for any redreſs of private or public wrongs from men in power. And from the reports induſtriouſly ſpread to your prejudice, and the machinations of evil counſellors, the worſt of enemies, pretended friends, about the throne, and the general averſion, with which the corrupt people of this country, have poſſeſſed the ſovereign againſt our poor ſpot; we ſurely have every thing that is bad to apprehend.

In ſuch ſad circumſtances, the only reſource I ſee left is, by ſtating the facts relative to the affairs of *Nordweg* in a proper light, to alarm and rouſe up the ſpirit of the *Daniſh* populace. Sluggiſh, effeminate, corrupt and daſtard as they are, they may be moved to beſtir themſelves in our behalf, from a ſenſe of their own danger. A wicked miniſtry may be more effectually wrought upon by popular clamour, than by any regard to truth or juſtice.

And

And I am in your lordſhip's judgment, whether there be not ample materials to raiſe ſuch a juſt clamour here, againſt the late adminiſtration in *Nordweg*, as might produce ſome good effects for both kingdoms, eſpecially at this conjuncture.

If theſe notions be honoured with your lordſhip's approbation, and you think me capable of giving any aſſiſtance; I am ready, under your ſanction, to imbark in the cauſe.—Your lordſhip muſt judge my motives diſintereſted; ſince it is impoſſible I ſhould love the ringleaders of the late oppoſition in the houſe of commons. Beſides, while I muſt approve the part of their conduct, in defence of which your lordſhip has been moved; I muſt deteſt the viſible motives to this conduct: for, to me, they appear, to have the ſame incentives to good and to evil actions; they certainly have now oppoſed a tyrant from no better principles or motives than thoſe, upon which they lately proſcribed a loyal ſubject; private reſentment and fear of the loſs of place or power.

Yet notwithſtanding, I think all lovers of their country, ſhould join and avail themſelves of every opportunity offered, by good men or by bad, to promote the common good. This opportunity ſhould ſurely be attended to; as, by prudent management, it may be improved to the beſt purpoſes; while the neglecting it may prove fatal in its conſequences.

If your lordſhip judges my deſign worthy of your countenance, I have nothing more to ask, than that you will keep theſe propoſals and my intentions profound ſecrets, and help me from time to time with ſome proper materials. An exact and well grounded account of the riſe and progreſs of the conteſt between the viceroy and the commons; a minute detail of the proceedings of both parties;

ſpeeches, addreſſes, and votes in the diet; rational writings, on either ſide, if any ſuch there be, will be requiſite. And as ſoon as your lordſhip furniſhes me thus, I ſhall as ſoon as poſſible open my plan, and proceed to inform the public here, whoſe attention is now fully raiſed, of the true ſtate of the caſe, and to point out to them how far their duty and intereſt conſpire to oblige them to ſtand forth in juſt oppoſition to the impending deſtruction of *Nordweg*, which muſt facilitate and expedite that of *Danemarch*.

I fear my zeal has tranſported me beyond due bounds. But, I hope, I have not incurred the imputation of arrogance. I am ſenſible, there may be many more powerful advocates for this cauſe. But, as no writer has as yet appeared on this behalf here; I muſt fear the cauſe, in this reſpect neglected. And this prompts me, thro' your lordſhip, to offer my poor ſervices to a ſinking country, tho' it has ungratefully caſt me off and undone me and mine.

It is fit to inform your lordſhip, that our courtiers here affect to impute all the late commotions in *Nordweg*, to a ſpirit of diſaffection to the preſent government, and a deſign to break the connexion between the two kingdoms, and to raiſe diſturbances in favour of the pretenſions of *Albert*. But, I ſhould not think it difficult to turn the ſcales, and ſhew more room to ſuſpect the movers of the late violent meaſures in *Nordweg*, proceeded upon ſuch pernicious principles; as there can be no way of ſtrengthening the intereſt of *Albert*, ſo effectual, as rendering the family on the throne hateful, by giving the ſanction of their name to corruption, oppreſſion and tyranny. And as meaſures of this kind have of late been inculcated and purſued by men of principles averſe to the eſtabliſhment, lately taken into favour;

ſavour; it is more than probable, an imputation of this kind properly placed, would meet with due credit, after the charges lately made and fully proved, tho' ill ſupported, againſt two men veſted with the moſt important truſt among us.

The impatience and hurry in which I am forced to write, muſt make this appear but a rude and inconnected ſketch to your lordſhip. I am more ſollicitous to lay my motives and intentions open to your lordſhip's view, than to poliſh or decorate my writings. I have nothing but the common good and your lordſhip's honour in view. To theſe I am willing to ſacrifice my own peace and private intereſt. I am vain, or rather proud, enough to tell your lordſhip, that if my character be enquired, any where out of the houſe of commons, it will be found that my integrity ſtands untainted, and that neither the frowns of adverſity or the ſmiles of proſperity have been able to make me mercenary.

If ſo, your lordſhip will not condemn an humble zeal that concurs with yours, tho' you may from wiſer motives reject the profered ſervice. If I be ſo happy as to obtain your lordſhip's approbation; I beg you will, as ſpeedily as poſſible, honour me with your commands. If I may not hope to be ſo happy, let me beg you will either burn or return this letter, and forgive the preſumption of one, who has the ambition to miniſter to your patriot views, and to manifeſt with what reſpect and duty,

I am,
My Lord,
Your Lordship's,
moſt faithful
and obedient ſervant.
R. N.

This letter was dated from the *Heeren-ſtraat* at *Copenhagen*, *February* 14th, 1634, when his lordſhip had entered into a ſtrict patriot league with the preſident of the commons, now left out of the regency, and all the leading members, who were either diſplaced, unpenſioned, or in ſome manner highly irritated by the viceroy.

Had theſe all along, from juſt motives, uniformly oppoſed, and thereby prevented, this man's evil adminiſtration; how much had it been to their honour? but, their lately paſt conduct ſhews, what their future confirms, that the objections to the conduct of the viceroy, lay againſt the man, not againſt his meaſures; againſt him in his private, not in his public capacity: for, had theſe men been ſeverally gratified in their reſpective demands, the viceroy might have done what he liſted, without controul; as the ſubſequent conduct of theſe great patriots will evince.

Indeed, the conduct of his excellency was in all reſpects as blameable towards his opponents, as theirs to him: for, he ſtript every member indiſcriminately of his employments and preferments, civil and military, as well as of his penſion; not regarding whether he held them upon the honour of the crown, purchaſed them with his fortune, or received them as the wages of paſt ſervices to this viceroy or his predeceſſors.

This could not fail of hurting his excellency's credit and his cauſe. It cemented the connexions, and gave weight to the aſſociations againſt him. The contemptible treatment given the baron *Ghichildaragh* by the king, raiſed his credit with the populace and the commons, and ſpurred him on more zealouſly to form a league againſt the viceroy. But, what his lordſhip and the reſt of the band of patriots had in view, while they took up all the attention of the

the public, and raiſed its hopes to an incredible heighth, will be ſeen in the ſequel.

Here let one obſerve, that the ſimplicity of *Rutilius*'s heart alone, and his unwillingneſs to look on the black ſide of human nature, could have cauſed him to miſtake the character of baron *Ghchilderagh*, who had long rendered himſelf as hateful as his power, influence, or fame extended. *Nordweg* hardly knew ſo great a tyrant as this nobleman, where his power reached. Nothing was done within his diſtrict, but as he liked. No man could make an improvement even in his lands or houſe, nor keep a horſe or a dog, but by his permiſſion. To give one inſtance out of many.

Flamberg, a neighbouring gentleman, happened to have a horſe, which the lord liked. His lordſhip therefore ſent a groom to bid money for the beaſt, judging that to court his lord's countenance, the owner would, as was the cuſtom, offer the horſe as a preſent, a ſacrifice to avert the wrath of a peeviſh divinity.

Flamberg being unfortunately too fond of the horſe, and hurt at the offer, declined the ſale, in civil terms. This, the young lord could not brook with, and therefore, reſolved to puniſh exemplarily, an unprecedented, daring offender. Every engine of perſecution was let looſe upon poor *Flamberg*; his lands were laid waſte, his friends and neighbours were forced to forſake him; by which means his life was rendered ſo uneaſy, that he determined to quit the country. His friends enquired how he had diſobliged the lord? he knew of no offence, but refuſing to part with his horſe. They told him, that was cauſe enough, and that he muſt ſtraightway make the beaſt a peace-offering to his angry lord. He, with much perſwaſion and great reluctance, ſubmitted; went to the lord's court and

offered him the horſe upon any terms, on which his lordſhip ſhould vouchſafe to accept him. The lord ſeemed then indifferent about the horſe; but aſked the gentleman to dine, poſtponing the talking of the ſale till after dinner.

Flamberg now thought his friends wiſe in their advice, and already began to exult upon the happy proſpect of a reconciliation with his lord. Dinner being over, he preſſed his lordſhip to accept of the horſe. The peer cooly thanked him, ſaying he now had no occaſion for him, at the ſame time dropping ſome hints to ſhorten his viſit.

Flamberg diſappointed, took his leave; went to the ſtables, called his ſervants to get him his horſes. But, how ſhall his aſtoniſhment be painted or conceived, when he found his favourite horſe cloſe cropt and dock'd? He would have expoſtulated, had even like to have raged, at this horrid abuſe, the greateſt diſgrace in *Nordweg*; but he was ſoon given to underſtand, it was all in vain, that he muſt take what he got, and had better depart, contented it happened no worſe. There was no remedy, He was forced to ſubmit. This was the temper of the peer, from whom *Nordweg* was to hope for redreſs of grievances, even in the apprehenſions of the miſtaken *Rutilius*. But, he knew not this and many ſuch like parts of this peer's private character. Otherwiſe he had not flattered himſelf with hopes of his doing or intending well to his country. The ſequel of his lordſhip's character proves this. He wanted but power the farther to exert his tyrannical ſpirit: for, regardleſs of all ſenſe of law and right, even of common decency, he ſhewed himſelf, wherever he could, a moſt proud, haughty, arbitrary deſpot; and only formed aſſociations, or ſhared his authority, purely to acquire new weight and power, to gratify the ſordid purpoſes of a perverſe ſoul.

LET-

LETTER XIV.

IN the aſſociations, three men were principally deſtined to be ſacrificed to appeaſe the incenſed public. Theſe were the viceroy, his ſon the ſecretary, and the primate. The crimes laid to the charge of the firſt were influencing and reſtraining the debates in the diet, whoſe privileges are inviolable; offering a bill and uſing violent meaſures to get it paſt into a law, to give the crown a right to all ſurplus money in the treaſury, and to alter the original, eſſential form of acts of the diet, ſuddenly proroguing the diet, while moſt of the public buſineſs was depending, and ſuppreſſing many bills ready for the royal aſſent; then arming a band of lawleſs rioters, and authoriſing civil blood ſhed, to the great terror and detriment of the ſubjects; his robbing the commons of means to explain their conduct, and induſtriouſly maligning and miſrepreſenting them, to his majeſty; and the ſpoiling many men of their employments civil and military, many of which were private purchaſes; as alſo of penſions given by his majeſty or preceding viceroys, as rewards to merit and ſervices to the crown; and all this, to puniſh members for acting agreeable to their conſciences, and the truſt repoſed in them by their conſtituents. Thus pompous and ſpecious was the charge againſt the viceroy.

Tho' theſe were crimes, without oppoſition or reflection, openly practiſed, in ſome degree, by every preceding viceroy, as well as this, heretofore; yet were they ever till now overlooked by the complaiſant, indulging commons, while their leaders were gratified. Now that theſe were diſpleaſed, every mouth cried out for revenge, for redreſs of

public

public grievances, for ſatisfaction to an injured nation, for blood. O! blood! blood, *Iago*!—— Theſe were popular cries, which catched and inflamed the multitude.

The crimes imputed to the ſon, were influencing elections in the houſe as well as out of it, and attempting to corrupt members when elected, and to influence their voices againſt their country, in favour of the moſt iniquitous meaſures of his father's adminſtration. If this were true, it was only criminal for two reaſons, with the patriots; firſt, becauſe the attempts miſcarried; and ſecondly, becauſe all the patriot members, had time immemorial judged the ſole right of influencing and corrupting electors and elected, and directing the voices of the commons in all public, as well as private concerns in the houſe, was the ſole and unalienable property of their preſent preſident, who had, ever ſince he held the chair, exerted this power without reſtraint or controul, with all its perquiſites and emoluments; till his province was ſurrepitiouſly invaded by the management of the preſent viceroy and his creatures.

However, what was deemed no crime in the preſident, and made his ſeat looked upon with envy by the ambitious, was undoubtedly, *nemini contradicente*, a crime in the ſecretary; with this then he was to be branded, aggravating his guilt with the farther charge of extorting moſt exorbitant and exceſſive fees in his office, bordering upon bribes; a crime never known to be charged before upon any ſecretary of *Nordweg*, before he left the kingdom; and conſequently a crime, becauſe it interfered with the perquiſites of ſome of the patriots. But, however the charge might have been founded, it could not fail of ſtirring up the popular reſentment againſt the ſuppoſed offender.

And

And to the other foul imputations thrown out againſt the primate, as before mentioned, was added that of aiding and abetting the father and the ſon in all branches of their evil adminiſtration; the principal weight of which accuſation appeared to be no more, than his interfering with the eſtabliſhed province of the preſident of the commons, who was long confeſſed the ſole and abſolute ruler of that houſe, and was never known to give any oppoſition to the crown or its ſubſtitutes, before he ſaw his province invaded and his power likely to fall.

Tho' ſome of theſe crimes might have been but imaginary, and others were crimes only againſt the preſident and his faction; yet many of them appeared too well founded and too deep to be overlooked; while the ſmalleſt of them, dreſſed up artfully in blackening expreſſions, ſerved to make out a capital charge, with a prejudiced populace. To the jaundiced eye, all things ſeem green.

The blackening theſe men ſerved the patriots ſeveral purpoſes. Men who have no virtues of their own, ſhine among thoſe who are ſtript of the character. The blacker the courtiers were made, the brighter the patriots appeared. But, matters were now carried to ſuch extremities, by both factions, that nothing could reſtore the excluded patriots to their places and penſions, but faſtening the charges of capital crimes upon the viceroy and his agents. Therefore this was done with all the aſſiduity and clamour poſſible. The ſlighteſt ſlips of government were magnified into capital crimes. Real crimes were aggravated, and all loudly proclaimed to the multitude, whoſe rage boiled over upon the occaſion.

Impeachments were promiſed and prepared againſt the viceroy, againſt the ſecretary, and againſt the treaſurer for laying out the public money undiſpoſed

of, unappropriated, without the authority of the diet. And as for the primate, a few votes to diſqualify him for ſerving in the regency, was to ſate the moderate revenge of the patriots, and the unoffended, tho' incenſed populace.

Theſe were the ſchemes laid by the commons, to the performance of which, each ſolemnly bound himſelf to the other, and all to the public. Above all, the preſident of the commons was foremoſt in theſe charges and theſe promiſes to the members and to the injured and inraged multitude. And as he engaged to exert his ſovereign ſway to get the impeachments brought in and ſupported by the houſe, ſo the baron *Ghchildaragh* undertook to carry them thro' the houſe of nobles, where he had eſtabliſhed an intereſt for the purpoſe, among the laity, the clergy always withdrawing in caſes of blood.

One would imagine *Rutilius*'s letter could not fail of being welcome to this whole junto, to the baron in particular. It certainly muſt have been ſo, had their real purpoſes been what they profeſſed in public and in private. But, they were too wiſe to accept the offer. Each of the chiefs had his ſecret views, which a publication of this ſort muſt have marred. Whatever the herd was made to believe, the leaders meant only by threats to force the government into their meaſures; let them be but gratified in their private views, and any viceroy might, as heretofore, take his fling in the adminiſtration. For theſe reaſons, an appeal, ſuch as *Rutilius* propoſed, might poſſibly carry matters to too great extremities, without anſwering the private ends of any of the faction. Some men might be brought to the ſcaffold or the gallows; but the opponents might be ſtill left to ſeek for the favourite objects of their wiſhes. The letter was ſhewn to a choſen few, and by unanimous voice decried and rejected.

Rutilius

Rutilius hearing this, gave copies of it to ſeveral of his friends, to warn them againſt the wiles of theſe inſidious pretenders to the love of liberty and their country. And finding that all this pompous ſhew of patriotiſm, not known before in the memory of man, in *Nordweg*, was but a conteſt of private men for their own ends, quite regardleſs of the public concerns; he drop'd his pen and turned his thoughts another way.

LETTER XV.

A Reader of any forecaſt, with a ſlight ſenſe of honour, would naturally judge that the commons of *Nordweg*, headed by the noble peer, could not poſſibly fail of fulfilling their repeated ſolemn engagements to and with the public. To learn the truth, he muſt attend me thro' a review of the next ſeſſion of the diet at *Bergen*.

It was now judged imprudent by the *Daniſh* miniſtry to continue baron *Dorenſaght* or his ſon in their high employments in *Nordweg*. And it is probable, theſe prudent noblemen, did not think it quite expedient again to encounter a whole inraged people, with the commons and ſome of the principal nobles at their head. They therefore wiſely declined the taſk, each taking, as it were in exchange, the firſt employments that became vacant in *Danemarch*, that were neareſt an equivalent to thoſe they were forced to give up.

A new viceroy was now to be nominated; when after ſome conſideration the count *Yartingburgh* was judged the fitteſt to fill up the place in the preſent poſture of affairs. He was a nobleman of the firſt rank and fortune, of moderate parts, not highly cultivated by letters; but of reputed honour and

probity throughout all the ſtations of life. He had had but little experience of men; and as his heart was unpractiſed in guile; he never ſuſpected any man of ill, without cauſe. He was humane, benevolent, good-natured, moſt hoſpitable and affable. And nothing was farther from his heart, than an ambition to be put into great employments, beyond his ability to diſcharge. But, he was forced ſometimes to ſubmit to the exigencies of the court.

It was not yet judged a convenient point of time to come to an open rupture with the *Nordwegians*; *Danemarch* being then engaged in a tedious, expenſive and precarious war with *Sweden*. It was at this juncture judged moſt prudent to ſend a man of this character with full powers to heal up the dangerous wounds, with which *Nordweg* yet ſmarted. But, it was more for the ſanction of this nobleman's name, than from any opinion of his political talents, that he was ſent upon this doubtful and perilous undertaking. And, to ſecure his conduct, agreeable to the purpoſes of his principals, they made him take as his ſecretary, a man of reputed good ſenſe and thorough knowledge of the intentions of the miniſtry, and who had a natural intereſt in the country.

The count of *Yartingburgh* too, had a conſiderable intereſt there: his father had formerly ſerved there as viceroy, and made ſtrong connexions with ſome of the moſt opulent and lately enobled families there; the *Ponſiburghs*, now impeered by the title of *Beſton*; and by his wife, he had ſome alliance with the preſident of the commons, who was a deſcendant of the antient and illuſtrious family of *Suberton*.

Before we proceed further in this narrative, it may be ſatisfactory to ſome readers to explain the characters of ſome of the principal perſonages in the

the drama, now engaged in acting the tragical ſtate-farce in *Nordweg*.

The preſident of the commons was the deſcendant of a younger ſon of one of the moſt antient and illuſtrious *Daniſh* families ſettled in *Nordweg*. They got footing in this country in the reign of queen *Margaret*, who raiſed the firſt of them to the houſe of nobles; in which rank, the virtues of the ſucceſſors raiſed the heirs of the family, and enobled other branches, while honours were the rewards of virtue; which was hardly the caſe half a century after the queen's death: ſo that ſubſequent creations of nobility oftener carried and infixed ſtains than honours.

The titles remaining in this family were thoſe of the counts of *Suberton* and *Orfinburgh*, each of which houſes had produced ſome of the beſt members of ſociety, and one of them in particular honoured and obliged the world with one of the greateſt ornaments to his country or to mankind; *Frederick Boleſtadt*, ſurnamed *Gudfruktig*, i. e. the religious philoſopher; moſt properly; for he was a man of moſt extenſive knowledge in all kinds of literature, in all ſciences and arts, and indued with every virtue that might contribute to exalt the dignity of human nature, added to the pureſt notions and the moſt ſtrict regards to the revealed and eſtabliſhed religion.

Of a family thus enobled by nature, and by law, ſprung *Weinflaſche Boleſtadt*. In his father's time, all ſenſe of morality and religion began to expire, with all regard to letters and ſound politics, in *Nordweg*. Intereſts were to be kept up in the ſtate by factions. Factions were formed upon aſſociations in vice. Theſe laid the foundation for falſe friendſhip, which owed its origine to confederacies in iniquity.

The

The chief bond of ſociety now known in *Nordweg*, was wine. No man pretended to know another, till he got drunk with him. Invitations were now ſent to bring men to get drunk together, as in our days to drink tea or play at cards. If a man was aſked whether or no he knew another; to anſwer poſitively in the negative, he ſaid, he never got drunk with him. Hence the greateſt civility that could be paid a perſon of diſtinction was to make him fuddled, or to get heartily drunk with him. The principal teſt of integrity was drawn from drunkenneſs: for, it was ſaid, ſuch a man was a very honeſt, becauſe a very drunken, fellow. A man that did not drink fair, that is, as deep, as others in company, was reckoned a moſt diſhoneſt and unworthy companion. And he that let his gueſt get away before he made him dead drunk, or was himſelf put dead drunk to bed, was remembered with infamy for generations.

All families of diſtinction were now under a neceſſity of making drinking a principal part of the education of their children. In this, they were initiated early. They ſucked in *French* claret with the nurſe's milk; and learned to drink hiſtorical toaſts to the memory of the dead, particularly that of *Frederick*, ſtiled immortal, before they could yet ſpeak plain. Drinking thus became habitual from infancy. And as the rankeſt poiſon given early, in ſmall quantities and gradually increaſed, ever is found to loſe of its deadly quality; ſo claret became ſo familiar to the *Nordwegians*, that ſome were able to drink as far as ſix, ſeven or eight quarts at a ſitting, which was frequently prolonged to twenty four, and ſometimes to thirty ſix hours, and then after a ſhort ſleep renewed again for ſeveral hours or even days; a man being always reckoned good company while he could drink his glaſs regularly

regularly in his turn and ſit up without puking or ſleeping.

This, among other vices, was borrowed from the *Danes*, among whom it had now grown ſomewhat obſolete, giving place to ſome more faſhionable ſin. How happy is it, that the ſedate, ſenſible and moderate inhabitants of theſe poliſhed kingdoms, keep free of theſe among other *Daniſh* and *Nordwegian* abominations ?

Such an age gave birth to our famous *Weinflaſche*. Such were the cuſtoms of the times, that formed his manners. He was not much burthened with learning, and was ſufficiently verſed in numbers to calculate certain quantities, and the values of acres, cattle and men, in crowns, ſhillings and pence. His patrimony was not large ; but his connections with the great were very conſiderable. And theſe, he ſtrengthened by an additional alliance with a ſuperior branch of his own family. His natural parts and diſpoſitions were good, rather than great. And, had they been improved by proper education, and directed to proper objects, by wiſe precepts or good example, they might have made an accompliſhed man, an additional honour to his family, and a bleſſing to his country.

But, the increaſe of craft and cunning, not the culture or propagation of good ſenſe, was the chief object in education held deſirable in his time. He was well inſtructed in what man was, not in what man ſhould be. And he early acquired the capital accompliſhment for a man that would learn the ſecrets of other men, while he concealed his own ; he could bear from ſix to eight bottles of claret, while few of his contemporaries could come within a bottle or two of him. Yet, he was always obſerved to fill his glaſs as high and drink as fair as

any

any man. By which he ſoon eſtabliſhed the character of a very honeſt fellow, univerſally.

He never ſtudied any ſyſtem of polity, and was only by rote, and that but ſlightly, acquainted with that of *Nordweg* or *Danemarch*. But, he had natural ſagacity enough to ſee what the ſprings and movements of government were in both kingdoms, and found no difficulty in purſuing the plan, upon which the adminiſtration of both were carried on, when it came to his turn to bear a part in either.

He was no orator; but could expreſs himſelf ſenſibly and forcibly enough in ſhort ſentences upon any ſubject; eſpecially in private, where he could enforce his arguments beyond moſt men by the perſuaſive rhetoric of the big bottle.

In ſpeaking of public affairs, he either had, or affected to ſhew, great modeſty, and a diffidence in himſelf; paying ſuch a deference to others, as gave the generality of thoſe he thus converſed with, to underſtand, he acknowledged the ſuperiority in them.

This pleaſed every body; gained him univerſal love and confidence; and got him firſt thought a fit preſident for the commons; a ſtation in which every member was ſure to rule him, while he, by theſe means, was able to rule, if not every member, yet a ſufficient majority to ſerve all his purpoſes.

Thus accompliſhed and allied to ſome of the greateſt families, *Boleſtadt* was without oppoſition choſen preſident of the commons, the firſt vacancy in the beginning of the reign of *Chriſtiern* IV. Here he was ſoon found to have eſtabliſhed ſuch a deſpotic ſway, that the miniſtry found it neceſſary to make an intereſt in him.

There could be nothing more inconſiſtent with the freedom of the kingdom, than taking off the attention of a man ſet at the head of the democracy,

the preſident of the commons, from the duties of that great office, by any miniſterial employment. But, this was one of the *Daniſh* ſchemes for breaking the power of the commons in *Nordweg*. Therefore, for ſome time, it was found neceſſary to make the preſident one of the regency, in the abſence of the viceroy. And for this purpoſe, none was more fit or more neceſſary for the miniſtry than *Boleſtadt*, none more dangerous to the people of *Nordweg*; as he had acquired the moſt abſolute, extenſive ſway in the commons.

Without him, no point could be carried, and by his nod, any thing might be got to paſs, under the ſanction of the commons. No election in the diet was made, without his interpoſition. No election was valid, without his ſanction. And every election, he thought proper, was fruſtrated or diſſolved. To him, ſuch as had ambition for ſeats in the commons, were forced to apply for a kind of permiſſion to declare themſelves candidates. And to him, the elected were forced to ſue, to cringe, and to inliſt in his bands, before they could think their ſeats ſecure. He was the firſt man conſulted by the miniſtry, when they meant to carry any illicit point. Whether or no he diſſwaded them from attempting any and what meaſures, he and they were beſt able to tell. But, they that ſurvived him ſaw and declared, that he countenanced and carried every queſtion the court propoſed, till he found what he was taught to be his province invaded, the powers and perquiſites of his office reduced. Then indeed, he gave very powerful and memorable oppoſition; became a patriot and an hero, and held ſo for a ſeſſion or two, and might have continued ſo longer, had he not grown tired of the place, and found his ſatelites likely to deſert him.

He had held the chair with great honour and was believed a patriot, by the generality of the people, who did not look into his meaſures, for eighteen or twenty years. *Rutilius* was one of the firſt, who explained and expoſed theſe meaſures; for which, the preſident became *Rutilius*'s firſt and moſt powerful enemy; but without giving the object of his wrath, the leaſt room to ſuſpect his indignation, much leſs his enmity.

Whether or no he would have ſtooped to make ſeparate terms for himſelf, excluſive of his faction, is a matter of doubt. It is moſt certain, he had an herd of the moſt infamous, perfidious ſlaves to deal with, that were each taken up in ſoliciting for their own private advantages apart, and regarded their preſident no further, than they found his power and authority conducive or ſubſervient to their intereſt; ſuch were all that were capable of ſpeaking a ſentence in ſupport of the chair. Theſe were a few; but they had many implicit followers, and ſome few honeſt, miſtaken men joined in the choir.

It was in this man's power to make as glorious a retreat, as he was once induced to make a ſtand againſt the enemies of his country. He knew his minions, when they leaſt ſuſpected it. He knew the parts, they were privately, as well as publicly, acting. And he might have renounced the meaſures of the government, and diſclaimed fellowſhip with his abandoned, perfidious crew, reſigning a chair, that was no longer to be held with honour or a clear conſcience.

But, he well ſaw the giving it up in, this manner, would be a matter of triumph to his enemies; as it would gratify one ambitious leader, that long had had an eye upon it, and might in the end expoſe him to the inſolence of the little ſlaves, that were raiſed by, and ſome time lived upon, his ſmiles; as

maggots are engendered and live in the ſun; both alike the offſpring of corruption.

The country had not virtue enough to encourage ſuch a ſacrifice. Therefore *Boleſtadt*, thought it moſt prudent to get into an higher rank, with a conſiderable addition to his fortune, which might put him and his family out of the reach of the inſults of his late ſlaves; and promiſed to gratify his pride, by procuring him the reſpect ever attending title and riches, in countries bereft of all ſenſe of virtue and freedom. Hence the preſident, dropping the party that were preparing to drop him, made the beſt terms for himſelf and a few truſty minions, and retired, leaving the reſt of the faction to ſhift for themſelves, as they intended he ſhould, and giving the viceroy an opportunity of filling the common's chair, in the manner hereafter related.

LETTER XVI.

THE next in popular eſteem, and in intimacy with *Boleſtadt*, was *Kittar Gorter*; a man of an antient, reſpectable plebean family, dignified with knighthood. He was long known to aſpire at the preſident's chair, and to keep up an intereſt for it, was known to have expended above an hundred hogſheads of Margueaux. This commoner had about a dozen relations at his back in the diet, who carried many with them into a faction, all at the beck of their family leader. Theſe were often able to determine the fate of a queſtion as they liſted. But they for ſome time had remained ſubſervient to the preſident *Boleſtadt*, hoping by his intereſt, when he ſhould ſome time or other reſign, to put the head of the family and faction into the chair.

This factious leader counterfeited ſo well, that he got the reputation of a friend to *Bole-*

ſtadt, whom he mortally hated, and of a lover of his country, which he was ever ready to ſacrifice, as the nod of power directed. Had not this been his character, he had hardly been appointed as he was, one of the ſenate.

For this great man, a ſoft word or a ſmile from a viceroy, was an ample bribe, for a vote or ſo. But, a ſmall place or penſion for an indigent relation, would have made him a rampant orator for the court, to whoſe queſtion he ſecured his faction of dependants, and his dozen of worthy kindred: Theſe have been known to awake out of a profound ſleep, juſt at the putting of a queſtion, and only to enquire on which ſide the *Kittar*, their leader went, to determine their voices.

The character of this man may be eaſily conceived, from his becoming the moſt bitter enemy of *Rutilius*, whom he had never ſeen, and with whom, no ſort of dealing or intercourſe had ever happened. Yet *Kittar* and his pliant followers firſt joined heartily in the perſecution and proſcription of this innocent, unoffending man; whom they found unfit, if not dangerous to their purpoſes.

This however, he conducted with his uſual ſecrecy; ſo that few knew the *Kittar* had engaged in the cruelty. When *Rutilius* was removed, his friends in *Danemarch* as well as in *Nordweg*, ſollicited for the reſtoration of the unfortunate exile. The *Kittar* among the reſt was either perſonally in *Bergen*, or by letters from *Copenhagen*, addreſſed in behalf of the injured man. To the one, the ſuple knight declared he was aſhamed and ſorry for the part, the commons had unadviſedly acted in this perſecution. Bad his friends call him home, and he would be anſwerable for the conſequence; for, that he would take care to ſkreen the unfortunate man from injury and moleſtation. To the letters from *Copenhagen* he

he gave a direct contrary answer: he openly avowed (but in letters he judged would be seen by none but those to whom they were addressed;) 'that neither he nor any of his fellows felt any sense of remorse or sorrow, for the punishment justly inflicted on *Rutilius*, whom they upon sufficient grounds declared an enemy to his contrary, and therefore deserving banishment; but on the country, that if it were to do again, they would as heartily concur in it as they did at first.'

Boleſtadt was censured for not keeping faith with this man; for not giving him notice of his intentions to quit the chair. But, who will condemn him if they consider, that he must have known his man? *Weinſlache* must have early seen the double-dealing heart of *Kittar Gorter*. He could not therefore trust him. And his prudence may be seen in this, from the part *Gorter* bore in public affairs, when he found the chair was vacant, and that the viceroy intended to give the commons a *congè d'elire* for his brother-in-law: for, tho' the eyes of the commons and the whole kingdom were upon him, all to some of the members whom the viceroy had engaged; he had neither sense nor fortitude enough to stand an election, upon which he had long set his heart; but went to court, and told the viceroy, 'that he not only declined standing a competitor for the chair with his excellency's brother; but would even give him his vote and interest.' Such was the first of the steady patriots, with which *Boleſtadt* was connected. Let us see of what the rest were made.

After *Kitter Gorter*, his kinsman and allie, the much famed pleader, *Maloffuzz*, deserves mention. This was one of the first orators known in the diet or courts of *Nordweg*. He set out as most men of parts did in his time, with opposing the ministry. For which, the government took notice of

of him, and would have found means of cruſhing him. But, he had formed an alliance with the *Gorters*, who promiſed for his ſilence and ſervility, if the court would diſtinguiſh him with ſome mark of favour. Upon this, he was made the chief pleader to the king, a place that gratified his pride, rather than glutted his avarice. He held his place and did as the court bad him, for ſome years.

But, he at length diſcovered, as the public acknowledged, the weight of his power in the courts as a pleader, and in the diet, as a member. He judged his place bore no proportion to his merit, and thought it right to break once more with the court, in order to oblige them to purchaſe his ſervices at an higher rate. The court once ſilenced him for a ſeſſion with promiſes, and giving ſome things beneath, his acceptance, to ſome of his brethren and kinſmen. But, in the next ſeſſion, he thought it proper to fly off again and inſiſt upon ſome of the firſt things in the gift of the crown; which, happening then not to be obtainable, he formed a ſeeming cloſe connexion with *Boleſtadt*, who took him into all his ſecrets, and made an actual proviſion for him, when he retired from the chair. This, the pleader did not at firſt dare to accept, dreading the reſentment of the populace, whom he had ſo often duped. He might have informed *Gorter* of all that was tranſacting between the preſident and viceroy; but he feared diſappointment in his own projects, as well as in thoſe of his friend and patron, by ſuch a diſcovery. And ſo gave one inſtance of virtue, ſuch as it was. When the popular fury was aſſwaged this gentleman ſollicited for his ſtipulated employment. But, could not, for ſome time, obtain his wiſhes. But, before the next meeting of the diet, it was found expedient to ſtop the venal orator's mouth.

The fourth commoner, we ſhall mention, deſerves an higher rank among the leaders.—*Gunter Fuhrman*

man was a gentleman of a ſmall fortune, who got a polite education and ſtudied the law. He had an uncommon ſhare of good ſenſe, but more cunning. He underſtood men and things clearly well. And knew moſt perfectly how to accommodate himſelf to times and men, ſo as to avail himſelf of the paſſions of the one and the changes of the other, and make all ſubſervient to his own ends. He was even in his youth grave and ſage among old men. And in old age, gay and ſprightly among youth. He was upon the whole, where he had no deſign upon his company, a moſt good humoured, facetious, agreeable companion. He had talents to enable him to ſhine in any branch of ſcience or art, to which he applied. And was at once a judicious lawyer, a natural philoſopher, a mathematician, a farmer, a mechanic in turning, painting and ſculpture, as well as an accompliſhed ſtateſman.

Diſliking the drudgery of a pleader, he laid himſelf out for employments about the courts, and bought that of keeper of the records, a place of conſiderable honour and profit. By the means of ſome money, with his intereſt in the diet, he got into other employments in the different courts. Having purchaſed one of the venal burghs, he got a ſeat in the houſe of commons, where he ſhewed the power of craft, more than of oratory; yet by the latter became ſo neceſſary to the court, that he was taken into favour and confidence with the miniſtry, and admitted into the ſenate.

It was judged neceſſary to make *Fuhrman* and *Boleſtadt* draw together. Each ſaw his force and weight, increaſed by a connexion with the other. And tho' each moſt heartily hated the other, they judged it for their mutual intereſt to diſſemble, to hide their averſion, and to draw together.

He

Being very expert in numbers and calculations, he became the moſt uſeful member in matters of ſubſidies, new taxes or accounts. For which reaſon, he was generally chairman of all committees on ſuch matters. In which, he long proved a moſt obſequious ſervant of the miniſtry. If any body happened to be hot-headed, and uninſtructed enough to find fault with any of the moſt tyrannical, the moſt iniquitous meaſures of adminiſtration, from *Danemarch*; if it was the altering money bills in the *Daniſh* ſenate, or the directing or dictating the deliberations of the diet, or reſtraining and binding them by *Daniſh* ſtatutes, to which they could not conſent; *Fuhrman* was always the firſt, that urged paſſive obedience and non-reſiſtance to whatever meaſures the *Daniſh* court thought proper to propoſe, and generally, by the help of his good alliance, carried his point.

It was not eaſy, it was not prudent in the court, to refuſe ſo uſeful, ſo neceſſary a ſervant any thing. Therefore, he got whatever he vouchſafed to aſk, for ſome time. At firſt, he was very moderate in his demands: he did not exceed ſome inlargement of the ſallaries and perquiſites of his places, with patents, the better to ſecure them to him. All which were moſt readily granted; it being judged that his ſervices to the government ſhould in return be ſecured.

For many years, the court and he ſerved each other with uninterrupted harmony. After long ſervices, he judged himſelf intitled to further favours from the court; which, he would undoubtedly have received, had not *Beeſingſtein*, the primate, formed ſchemes for ſharing the temporal government with *Boleſtadt*, if not wreſting it entirely out of his hands; reſolving to ſecure *Maloſſuz*, by giving him the keeper's place in reverſion.

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As nothing of a public nature was to be done in *Nordweg* or *Danemarch*, without a bribe of one kind or other; ſo the means of bribing was not always eaſily had to the taſte of the bribed. Some wanted places: new and unneceſſary places were made, till it was found that there was no likelihood of ſeeing an end to the multiplication of employments. An other method was diſcovered, which while it gratified the corrupt, at the ſame time pleaſed the court, from the diſtant proſpect of its diſtreſſing the prince ſucceſſor: this was the unnatural and illicit granting of places in reverſion, without any ſort of regard to the character or qualifications of the future incumbent.

In this ſhameful manner, moſt of the conſiderable employments were given in reverſion to two, three or more people. When the incumbent of any place was out of favour, any favourite might get a reverſionary grant of the employment. And any civil officer, in favour, was hardly ever at this period denied a reverſionary grant of the office, after his death to one or two of his ſons, or friends, in ſucceſſion.

Fuhrman, with great reaſon, thought himſelf intitled to ſuch a common favour. One of the regents, *Boleſtadt*, agreed to it; ſecond, the chancellor did not refuſe; but the third, the primate, having it in view for one of the minions of him and his principal, peremptorily and inſolently refuſed the requeſt of a long, faithful and moſt obſequious drudge of the court.

No man carried reſentment further than *Fuhrman*. He never forgave offences, real or imaginary, for ſome generations; tho', to wait for a fit opportunity for revenge, he could put on the maſk of forgiveneſs and even friendſhip for a while. But, wiſe providence made the lineaments of his face ſuch a

ſtrong and plain index to his mind; that no body could ever be deceived by the appearance of the keeper; except, where born down by a torrent of words of a quite contrary indication to his countenance; of which he never was ſparing, when he ſaw occaſion.

The primate was now ſingled out for the object of *Fuhrman*'s vengeance. As his grace acted but in concert, and in truſt for the viceroy; the one could not be ſtruck at, without the other. So *Fuhrman*, when he found that neither would gratify his deſire, reſolved to oppoſe both. He firſt ſet out in blaſting the primate's fame, and by all manner of means aſperſing him and his minions. He is ſaid to have been the firſt that gave riſe to the infamous, unproved, improbable charge, made upon the primate. Who firſt threw the dirt may not be eaſily aſcertained, at this diſtance of time; but, it is moſt certain, that *Fuhrman* countenanced, and by jokes and inuendos propagated a report, ſo likely in the end, whether true or falſe, to undo the object of his diſpleaſure.

As ſoon as *Boleſtadt* found the keeper at variance with the primate, he availed himſelf of the rupture, and renewed alliances with *Fuhrman*, againſt the primate, vowing never to part, never to ceaſe co-operating, till they had humbled the pride of the high prieſt, as they now emphatically called the primate.

And henceforward, the preſident and the keeper for a while, and publicly, co-operated in all things againſt the primate and his principal. But, as they ever hated, they could never truſt, each other, ſo each had always an eye to ſelf. *Fuhrman* was upon the whole, a great acquiſition to the ſtrength of *Boleſtadt*'s faction; while the withdrawing him, from that of the primate and viceroy, extreamly weakened their ſtrength. Theſe two leaders, continued in ſeeming amity and alliance, till each diſ-

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covered, too openly, the ſecret intentions and attempts of the other, to make an advantageous, ſeparate peace for himſelf, excluſive and regardleſs of the allies. Then, they ſhewed their mutual long-pent up hatred and rage againſt each other: each charging the other with breaches of faith and good fellowſhip. But, which of the aſſociates in iniquity firſt broke thro' his engagements with the other, can hardly be determined by any court inferior to the laſt great tribunal, where no ſecret will lye hid. In juſtice to this character, it muſt be remembered, that he gave the moſt zealous oppoſition to count *Tſcheſdirvelt*'s ſcheme of getting bills framed and paſt in the ſenate, to leſſen or overturn the diet.

To theſe, for the preſent muſt be added, *Kittar Hahns*, an anomalous wight, not eaſily reduced to any claſs of men yet known; as no party, faction or club was ever able to retain him long. He was the ſon of a moſt ignorant and knaviſh *Daniſh* pleader, ſent over to *Nordweg* to propagate glummer principles, for which he was firſt raiſed to be preſident of the high court, and afterwards to the chancery, and knighted; but, being but of little or no weight there, he was turned back from this court to the former, to make room for a perſon of more importance, in the reign of *Frederick* II. and afterwards, for miſdemeanors of various kinds, in his public capacity as a judge and a ſenator, was cenſured and ſtigmatized by the diet, and ignominiouſly turned out of all public employments, in the reign of *Chriſtiern* III.

He gave his ſon a genteel education, and from a viſible ſucceſſion in genius and diſpoſition, hoped to ſee him placed upon ſome of the benches. But, his own foul diſgrace coming on him unexpected; he was forced to give up the favourite thought, and with a ſmall, ill-purchaſed eſtate, incumbered with

debt, left his hopeful ſon to ſucceed to his father's ill-gotten, pitiful title and fortune.

The young *Kittar Hahns* had got ſuch a taſte of good living in the lifetime of his father, that it was death to him to retrench it. So he ran on in all manner of extravagance, while he had any credit. Then, to ſkreen himſelf and his few acres from his incenſed creditors, he put himſelf under the ſanction of the priviledge of the diet; which was the common refuge of ſpendthrifts of both nations, in theſe their laſt days.

Hahns had a good humoured aſpect and a moſt inſinuating manner, and never failed of gaining the friendſhip of any man, he could have acceſs to; till he became too well known to all, to be truſted by any. He was plauſible in his mien, and with bad expreſſions, was eloquent, from the pure force of diſſimulation; for, where words were inadequate to his thoughts, or his ſpeech failed, as it was known upon many occaſions, eſpecially when a pannic ſeized him; the operations of well-feigned paſſions gained him attention and credit.

He early paid court, in the moſt fawning and ſervile manner, to the riſing *Boleſtadt*, then poſſeſſed of the diſpoſal of ſeveral of the venal burghs. The new preſident, intent upon forming a faction in the commons, thought *Hahns* a fit man for his purpoſe. *Hahns* well knew the preſident fit as well as neceſſary to his, and therefore in ſome of their ſix-bottle aſſemblies, he ſollicited the preſident for his countenance to get him a ſeat in the diet. *Hahns*'s repeated ſolemn aſſurances of an inviolable attachment to the party and intereſt of *Boleſtadt*, made the preſident readily agree to the ſolicitation; ſo that at the next vacancy, *Hahns* was at the promiſe of a ſmall expence, which he never paid, choſen to repreſent one of the preſident's venal burghs.

He was now got to the ſummit of his preſent wiſhes. He got ſafe out of the reach of creditors; and to put all, the old and the new creditors upon a level, to prevent their jealouſies of each other, and give the world a proof of this worthy member's future deſigns; he no ſooner got himſelf a ſeat in the diet, than he refuſed paying all the expences, that he was not previouſly forced to depoſite; ſo that even his election dinner and the carrying him to the diet were not paid for, even when a complaint of his fraud was lodged in the houſe, many years after.

It is eaſy to conceive what was to be expected from ſuch a member as this. He knew no principle, but ſelf-intereſt; and yet had not ſteadineſs or integrity enough to procure his own ends. He was with every viceroy that would purchaſe him, with every party that he could hope to ſerve him; till he was diſcovered and deſpiſed by all. Yet even then, he was thought of conſequence enough by every body that wanted to give, or feared, oppoſition, in the houſe. He has more than once been known to decline or refuſe the ſervice, for which he was beforehand paid. For ſuch behaviour, he was called to account. But, found ſuch a coward upon trial, as to cringe, fawn, and diſſemble, promiſe, and lie, to get off; ſo that no man of ſpirit or character would have any dealings or intercourſe with him. Members that had honeſt and patriot meaſures in view, ſhunned all commerce with him. Such as were of the illicit ſide of the queſtion, which generally prevailed, found it neceſſary to take him into pay.

Daſtard and corrupt as the whole diet now was, *Habns* was the only member that could be hired to move againſt *Rutilius*. He readily undertook the ſhameful taſk. But, did not dare to truſt to court promiſes for payment. The day fixed for perpetrating this foul deed paſt over in ſilence and confuſion.

ſion. And the work might never have been done, had not *Hahns* found that the government had ſet their hearts upon it, and by keeping off, ſo frightened the viceroy at the proſpect of miſcarrying, as to make him advance a large ſum out of the treaſury for preſent pay, and give him aſſurances of being made revenue-commiſſioner for the port of *Drontheim*. Thus *Hahns* was ever to be bought, and hacknied in the fouleſt deeds for hire.

However, he might be univerſally deſpiſed, he ſaw he was able to make himſelf of ſome conſequence. He was not long contented with his place in *Drontheim*. Therefore looked he for an higher in *Bergen*. This, he ſaw was only to be done by giving oppoſition to the miniſtry. For this, he had now two motives: his ſale and perſecution of *Rutilius*, added to the recorded infamy of his character, in public and private life; rendered *Hahns* the moſt deteſted of the human race in *Bergen*, as well as in moſt other parts of *Nordweg*. The citizens in particular were ſo enraged at his conduct, that conſpiracies were openly formed againſt his life by ſome; while others, more vindictive, reſolved upon letting him live, after firſt maiming and branding him with indelible marks of popular hatred. Theſe, *Rutilius* had humanity and authority enough to prevent. Though he could not attempt to ſue for forgiveneſs for ſo nefarious a criminal. *Hahns* after this, led a miſerable life. His guilty conſcience made him yet more cowardly than nature framed him. Though the aſſaſſination plots were diſcovered and for the preſent prevented; he could not help living in perpetual dread of the populace.

To theſe then, as to an angry divinity, the pagan *Hahns* judged it neceſſary to pay all homage and adoration. He ſaw a favourable opportunity offer to appeaſe the public indignation and raiſe his

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own conſequence, by oppoſing the meaſures of the viceroy. Therefore he made tenders of his ſervice to the preſident.

A man, whom he had often offended and betrayed, and who well knew the open venality and unſteadineſs of this political proſtitute, could not be ſuppoſed to repoſe any confidence in him. But, it was no time to quarrel with mercenaries or volunteers; therefore *Habns* was once more received into the band, but never truſted with any thing, that was not intended to be ſold a ſa ſecret to the enemy.

However, there was ſome bond to ſecure ſome degree of this thorough-paced courtier's fidelity: for, though he was ever at the devotion of the higheſt bidder, and *Boleſtadt* had nearly loſt his power, and influence in the ſtate; yet, as the viceroy had not means at preſent to gratify his avarice and ambition, it might be hoped, he would once prove continent, for about half a ſeſſion; which might be enough for the private, if not for the profeſſed, purpoſes of all the pretended patriots.

He entered the liſts. And though in the aſſembly of the diet, in 1631, he argued and voted for the altered bill, with the premature conſent and permiſſion of the crown; in the aſſembly of 1633, he put on the patriot maſk ſo effectually as to deceive the whole kingdom and regain the affections of the citizens and the whole ſhort-ſighted populace. They ſaw him ready to ſacrifice a place worth about eight hundred crowns *per annum*; and without ſeeing into his motive, thought the man a thorough penitent for his paſt abandoned life, and a real convert to patriotiſm. Even *Boleſtadt*, who knew him better than moſt men, from the warmth of the zeal ſhewn by *Habns* in every popular queſtion moved in this aſſembly, was induced to believe him honeſt, though nothing was more foreign to his corrupt heart.

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The viceroy, who well knew this, could not help believing and treating *Habns* as an abandoned traitor. And therefore, determined to fruſtrate his deſigns, ſtript him, with all his aſſociates at once, of their reſpective employments. Now, he became a favourite of the lately incenſed citizens, who conſidering him as a convert, and martyr, for the cauſe, conferred many marks of their public regards, upon a man whom they had lately, deſervedly deſtined to ſlaughter. He made many believe him ſincere, by ſaying 'he now authoriſed any man to call him a traitor, if ever he accepted of any place or penſion.' When in a few days after, upon his revolt, he was put in mind of this; 'he bad them remember his privileges, as a member of the diet.'

In all this, the citizens were too precipitate and violent. It is true, *Rutilius* firſt fairly expoſed the character of *Habns*, and made it appear deſervedly hateful. But, the ſubſequent conduct of the pretended patriot, was what alone rendered him ſo odious as to cauſe a conteſt for the honour of aſſaſſinating him. One thing *Rutilius* omitted to explain, which ſome have aſcribed to his unwillingneſs to diſplay the deformities of human nature in ſo ſtrong a light, others imputed to his tenderneſs for the ſex, among which more honour, virtue and public ſpirit were then known, than among the women of any other country in *Europe*, if we believe what *Grampo Saxonus* relates.

But, however tender I am of the ſex, I cannot overlook a point of hiſtory, which ſerves to illuſtrate the character of one of the moſt conſiderable under-actors in the whole ſtate drama. The venal diſpoſition of *Kitter Habns* appears more clearly from his conjugal behaviour, than from any other part of his life. This I find related in *Sulko Finbrught*. This author tells us, that *Habns* proſtituted his innocent and virtuous wife for a ſum of money borrowed

rowed of a quack in *Drontheim*. The quack, who was no leſs avaricious than leacherous, expected the bond would ſome time be diſcharged, when his luſt had no further demands upon the proſtituted wife. And, before he came to this paſs, was ſometimes a little importunate for his money. But this, the artful debtor knew well how to elude: for, he often ſent the pawned pledge, the wife, to ſilence and at once to ſate the calls of avarice and of luſt. And ſhe at length became ſo expert in her trade, that ſhe often procured new ſums, by way of loan, to gratify and to engage the huſband further in the cauſe, together with large preſents for herſelf. But, when the quack had no further calls from *Venus*, he ſmartly urged the payment of the bonds. He miſſed his aim, for the knight ſettled his ſchemes ſo well, that he had not only ocular demonſtratian, but legal proofs of what had paſt between the doctor and the dame. He therefore, affecting ignorance of any previous knowledge or deſign of an illicit amour, threatened the gulled paramour with a criminal proſecution; to avoid which, the duped quack thought it beſt that every man ſhould ſit down with his private loſs, without public clamour; and therefore cancelled the bonds and took releaſes from the contented knight. When this is conſidered, who will wonder at any other part of the proſtitution of this pretended *Nordwegian* patriot? Such were the leading commons of falling *Nordweg!*

Theſe, with a few purſe-proud, ambitious commons, that wanted to be ſet off with the tinſel of nobility; ſome hungry, mercenary pleaders, that ſought for preferment; a few half ſtarved, ſtate penſioners; ſeveral dependants, influenced by thoſe; a few weak, miſled, honeſt men, who thought their leaders in the right; with ſome wrong-headed country puts, who formerly made themſelves popu-

lar, and got their pictures ſet up as ſigns to ſpruce-beer houſes and taverns, for oppoſing the meaſures of the court, without any rule for judging of right or wrong; this was the motley herd, that conſtituted the memorable oppoſition to count *Dorenſaght*'s adminiſtration in *Nordweg*, in the year 1633.

Would not *Falſtaff*'s regiment of ragamuffins make as good a figure in a muſter, as this houſe of commons upon a diviſion or a poll? Yet theſe were the truſty trained bands that were to reform public abuſes, to puniſh a haughty, overbearing, abuſive governor and his minions, to aſſert the rights of the people, and reſtore the broken conſtitution of the nation! But, good reader, by your leave, they thought it fit firſt to ſerve themſelves. And when that was done, they were all too wiſe to ſee any thing wrong in the adminiſtration; any public or private grievance to be redreſſed. Wonder then, if you can, at what happened in the next aſſembly, under a new viceroy, which I now haſten to relate. Only here, to quit the moſt diſagreeable part of the ſubject, let me juſt inform you, that in the next ſeſſion of the diet, *Hahns* was of all parties, yet of no party. Self was the ſole object of his conteſts, and he joined actively with no body, till he got an equivalent for what he loſt. Therefore, it was found neceſſary to give him ſixteen hundred crowns out of the treaſury, and a penſion of eight hundred crowns a year during the miniſter's pleaſure. This either ſtopt his foul mouth, or made him give the ſanction of his tainted breath to every illicit act that paſt, in the laſt aſſembly of the diet; where, all the leaders proved themſelves ſlaves and perjured parricides in *Nordweg*.

From ſuch a drama, it is eaſy to conceive how the laſt act of the ſtate farce was acted and ended. Wretchedneſs and ruin attended the nations, while

the people of each were ſo inattentive to any thing, but ſelf-gratification, that it was not poſſible to turn their thoughts to any thing that concerned poſterity or any diſtant times. Therefore ſudden deſtruction fell upon them moſt deſervedly, as ſhall be ſhewn in the following ſheets.

Were I not here engaged in the diſagreeable taſk of ſhewing the cauſes of the downfal of *Danemarch* and *Nordweg*, which makes it neceſſary to keep to the characters of the wicked men, that conſpired, or one way or other concurred in, the ruin of their countries; I might indulge myſelf, and the humane reader, in the pleaſure of explaining ſome of the few characters in each country, that did honour to their nations and to mankind.

But alas! they were too few in each, to check the deluge of iniquity and corruption that threatened the diſſolution of the ſtate. All the honeſty and all the public ſpirit, now left in either kingdom, remained among the poor citizens of *Bergen*, and the peaſants of *Nordweg* at large. Yet theſe, when they wanted ſenſible and honeſt leaders, fell an eaſy prey to every crafty villain that artfully aſſailed them.

Nor can it be forgot, that an inconſiderable number of men got by accident among the commons, who poſſeſſed all the ſocial virtues, in the moſt extenſive, in the moſt eminent degree. But, what were they to the corrupt multitude? So little, that they were blended and loſt in the maſs!

It may be aſked, where theſe were when *Dighslatſchius*'s legal and fair election was overturned, and his ſeat vacated and filled, by the houſe? They were abſorbed in the multitude, under the imperial management of the corrupt Haupt of the commons, whoſe vaſſals dared not diſobey their deſpot's will. Where were thoſe honeſt, ſenſible and free-members, when *Rutilius* was, unhearing and

unheard, doomed to gaol and exile, by an unprecedented and illegal, tho' unanimous, vote of the commons? The few of them, that were in town, had not courage to oppoſe the perfidious, perjured multitude, documented and commanded to paſs this wicked ſentence.

Among others, *Probus* was unfortunately abſent. *Probus* had every virtue that could adorn a man. His ſole ambition was doing good, in ſecret. The widow and the orphan were comforted and ſupported by his bounty, without knowing their benefactor. And no man of worth, that came to *Probus*'s knowledge, ever wanted money to ſupport his credit; though he could never learn the ſource of his obligation. Nor could a good citizen want a friend, or a good artiſt encouragement, while *Probus* lived. He improved his eſtate and made his tenants rich, and happy, by teaching them the ſweets of induſtry and freedom. And, of the income of a conſiderable, improved eſtate, after keeping up the dignity of his family and rank, in houſe-keeping and general oeconomy, enjoyed the leaſt ſhare himſelf. What remained of his fortune, after theſe expences, moderated by decency and prudence, was looked upon as the property of the public; for the firſt diſtreſſed objects, that occurred, were ſure to ſhare it.

Probus was the firſt, almoſt the only perſon of diſtinction, that countenanced *Rutilius*, and almoſt the only one, whoſe friendſhip was found heightened, rather than lowered, for an honeſt man, in adverſity.

No ſooner was the character of *Rutilius* known, than *Probus* gave him the firſt place in his boſom. One paſſion ſeemed to move, one ſoul to animate both. No wonder then, *Probus* held all things in common with *Rutilius*. The houſes, the ſervants, the cattle, the fortune, and the ſword of *Probus*,

were

were all devoted to the ſervice of *Rutilius* and his family and friends.

Probus never left *Bergen*, till he ſaw *Rutilius*'s election ſecured by the general voice of the people. But, his care for his tenants in the country, who looked upon him as their common parent, took him to ſpend ſome time among them, juſt before the return of the viceroy *Yarringburgh*, whoſe precipitate proceedings againſt *Rutilius*, could not have admitted of the returning of *Probus* and the other country members to town, before the fatal work was done.

His diſtreſs, upon the unexpected cruel treatment given *Rutilius*, is eaſier conceived than expreſſed. He bitterly enveighed againſt it upon all occaſions. He reſolved, as far as poſſible, to ſupply his place, by becoming the patron of the citizens, their advocate, their champion. He aſſerted their rights in the diet, upon the principles of *Rutilius*, and got the truth of his complaints proved, and acknowledged by the commons and the ſenate; but, there was not virtue enough in the public to ſupport him in his attempts for reformation.

After the public, his next care was for *Rutilius* and his family. As far as the loſs of a father could be ſupplied to children, *Probus* prevented the orphans of *Rutilius* from feeling the diſtreſſes to be dreaded from the baniſhment of their father. He did not omit comforting his exiled friend, in the mean time. He aſſured him by repeated letters, that he would double his diligence in the ſervice of the public, on his account; that his children ſhould want nothing, that he could ſupply; and that as to *Rutilius* himſelf, he would ſhare the laſt ſhilling of his fortune with him. In proof of which, he ſent him a large remittance, and ſupplied him conſtantly after with the utmoſt liberality; till he found

found *Rutilius* eſtabliſh ſuch a character in *Copenhagen*, as procured him extenſive practice.

Probus's example and influence induced many others to exert their generoſity upon this melancholy occaſion, as well as in oppoſing the torrent of iniquity, by which the overwhelming of the ſtate was every day, more and more apparently threatened. But, it was all too late. There were not now virtuous men enough left to protract, much leſs to prevent the impending deſtruction of the ſtate, which was compleated in the next reign.

While *Probus*'s general character procured him the general reſpect of the public; while the court, and the real and pretended patriots affected a regard for him; yet had each ſuch a private pique to his virtues, that they took the firſt opportunity of doing him a treacherous injury.

For public ſervices, *Probus* was intitled to public bounties, out of a fund appropriated to this purpoſe. This could not be obtained without an application to the commons, or to the viceroy. The hawpt or governor of the commons and the under leaders confeſſed the equity of his demands, and while they bad him make his application in form, aſſuring him of ſucceſs; they privately inſtructed ſome of their dependants to give it all oppoſition poſſible. Finding it thus likely to miſcarry, and truſting to the juſtice and countenance of the viceroy, he withdrew his claim; with which the viceroy was ſo well pleaſed, that he ſolemnly aſſured him, he would ſee his juſt demands fully ſatisfied.

But this was only promiſing to take the ſole method judged poſſible of obliging a man, who would accept of nothing that he could not in juſtice claim.

For, when the buſineſs of the diet was over, the viceroy returned to *Danemarch*, without any regard to the claims of *Probus*, or his own promiſes to him; neither

neither of which were ever diſcharged. But to ſhew that his excellency had ſome virtue, ſhame would never permit him to ſee *Probus* after, tho' he often called upon his excellency, as well in *Bergen*, as in *Copenhagen*. Thus falſehood and fraud took place of truth and juſtice univerſally. But, of this character, more hereafter.

LETTER XVII.

THE new viceroy, accompanied by his truſty ſecretary, and inveſted with proper powers, ſet out to take upon him his new government. He ſet out ſome months before the ordinary time of aſſembling the diet; as his enemies inſinuated, the better to learn and further to cajole the long-duped people; but, as thoſe that knew him believed, to compoſe the animoſities that had unhappily divided and broke the wretched kingdom.

The coming of a viceroy earlier than the firſt full moon that preceded the day fixed for opening the diet, was a phaenomenon as aſtoniſhing as a comet, in *Nordweg*. Therefore many and various were the conjectures upon his excellency's arrival. Theſe could not affect him, as he was determined, at all hazards and expences, to fulfil the inſtructions of his principal, and his ſenate and miniſtry.

The reception given him on his arrival in *Bergen*, would have done honour to the viceroy and people, had not the like compliment been ever laviſhed upon novelty in the ſame ſtation. After a ſhort ſtay, to enter upon his office, and to receive the compliments of the nobility, gentry and citizens; he made a tour to viſit ſome of the other great cities, to review the forces, and to ſurvey, with his own eyes,

eyes, the principal fortreſſes and garriſons of the kingdom. This too afforded new matter of ſpeculation and cenſure, to ſuch as think no man capable of doing a good thing, without ſome ſecret deſign.

In his circuit, he viſited ſome of the men of diſtinction that invited him, and ſpent ſome days at their country ſeats. This too afforded ſubject for cavilling, to men of exquiſite political ſenſibility. After this, he returned to *Bergen* to prepare for opening the diet, regardleſs of any thing that could be ſaid to his prejudice, while the chief object in his view, was the fulfilling his commiſſion.

His excellency was now converſant enough with the people of *Nordweg* to obſerve, that the only men that retained any ſenſe of freedom or true regard to their country, were to be found in a claſs, with which he could hold no intercourſe; while the men of property and rank, moſt of the members of the two chambers of the diet, whatever their public profeſſions might have been, were all in ſecret drawing different ways, to gain ſome favour or advantage to individuals, at any expence or damage to the whole. Hence, he plainly ſaw, he was left but his choice of two evils; whether to ſubjugate the whole kingdom by a military force, in which all ranks of people might concur with his excellency's diſpoſition againſt the project; or, at the expence of the public, to purchaſe a truce, an acquieſcence under all paſt modes and ſchemes of adminiſtration; towards which, the leading men had already ſeverally, directly or indirectly, made overtures.

When a man is reduced to make a choice of two evils, the beſt man can but chuſe the leſs. Had military force been let looſe on *Nordweg*, ſhe muſt have yielded, and could probably never again hope to raiſe her head; the thoughts of which, his excellency

cellency could not bear. But, he found peace not only more ſuitable to his diſpoſition, but the leaſt prejudicial to the people. Subſidies muſt be granted, money muſt by ſome means be raiſed, for the ſupport of the eſtabliſhment; for which, a conſiderable ſurplus in the treaſury was judged inſufficient.

The commons were not to be got to ſet about this buſineſs, with the neceſſary temper, till the private paſſion of each was ſated. And though the doing this, as each individual required, muſt have been attended with extreme preſent and future expence; it was better to agree to the propoſitions of accommodation and peace, made by the ſeveral members of the diet apart; than, by having the public buſineſs neglected, and new animoſities raiſed, being brought under the neceſſity of exerting a compulſion, that muſt prove ſuddenly fatal in its conſequences; whereas a virtuous people might in time hope to redeem themſelves from the ſale of them now offered to be made, by their perfidious truſtees in the diet.

From theſe conſiderations, the viceroy was induced to let the people purchaſe their own peace; as the leaſt evil that might in the preſent circumſtances be choſen. He therefore opened his ears to the propoſitions of the ruling commons; of which, he found no man that could confide in, or draw with, another. Each had his private view and ſeparate demand, without a thought for ſociety, preſent or future. Each member, that loſt a place or a penſion, demanded reſtitution or an equivalent for what he loſt, at leaſt. And ſome roſe in their demands, in proportion to the authority, their oratory or their pens gained among the populace or in the diet. And ſuch as had no place or penſion, before the late oppoſition, thought themſelves intitled to ſomething conſiderable, from the figure they made

in the conteſt. Thus, there was hardly a man to be found in the diet, who was able to do more than diſpoſe of a monoſyllable properly, that did not ſhew he got into the diet to rob the public of their liberties as well as of their property, to barter the liberties of the people, for the people's treaſure; that is, inſtead of receiving moderate wages for ſerving, they now took exorbitant bribes from their conſtituents, for betraying them. Who then can pity their fall? Who does not wonder at its being ſo long protracted? Who does not admire the moderation, the prudence of their ruler?

The viceroy ſaw the only way of carrying his adminiſtration ſmoothly on, was to throw a veil over the tranſgreſſions of his predeceſſor. He therefore entered into ſeparate treaties with each of the members. The baron *Ghchildaragh* demanded a few places and penſions for ſome of his friends and dependants in the diet, and for himſelf a place in the regency, and the leaving out the primate. And, as the active concurrence of the preſident of the commons was moſt neceſſary in the diet; his lordſhip recommended the procuring the preſent preſident to reſign upon a peerage, with a penſion for his life, and that of his eldeſt ſon, to make room for his excellency to get a man more to be depended upon, appointed to the chair.

To this, the preſident was induced to conſent, getting promiſes of a reſtoration of places and penſions to ſome of his friends, lately ſet aſide; and to ſecure a few more, that ſhewed their ability in the oppoſition, or their attachment to his intereſt. All the others yielded upon the like terms; ſome indeed, not being able to make as advantagious conditions for themſelves, as if their leaders concerted with them. But, as each ſuſpected the other, from the emotions of conſcience, it was judged moſt prudent

prudent and ſafe to make the beſt terms that could be obtained in ſuch an emergency.

Thus, in a little time before the opening of the diet, the viceroy was able to engage, to his purpoſes, all the ruling members of the diet, which eaſily ſecured a majority of the led members. The terms propoſed to each apart was, that he ſhould conſtantly attend the houſe, and to his might, publickly as well as privately, oppoſe all retroſpect to the conduct of the late viceroy and to that of the ſecretary and treaſurer. That he ſhould give his voice and intereſt, as the government ſhould direct, in the granting of ſubſidies and in the diſpoſal of the ſurplus in the treaſury; which ſhould be done by king's letters or by a bill, without any mention of the previous conſent of the crown, which proved ſuch an handle for diſturbances under the late adminiſtration. That each ſhould give his vote and intereſt in favour of *Herr Punſyburgh*, the viceroy's brother-in-law, whenever the preſident's chair ſhould happen to be vacant. And that they ſhould move and paſs no addreſs to his excellency or the king, but ſuch as he brought with him ready drawn, by his principals in *Danemarch*.

Each having thus made his bargain to his mind, few knowing, tho' all ſuſpecting from their own hearts, what others had done; a patent was made out, creating the Haupt of the commons, baron of *Salten*, with a penſion of two thouſand crowns a year for life. This was kept ſecret and ready for a fit occaſion to declare the chair vacant.

The diet was now opened with a ſpeech, concerted by the miniſtry of *Danemarch*, ſuitable to the occaſion. This was anſwered in the uſual high ſtrain of ſervile compliments, made time immemorial to the king and viceroy upon the like occaſions. This anſwer, as well as the ſpeech, was made in *Dane-*

march, and ratified by the leading commons firſt, and then by their followers, in due form, in the houſe.

In times of war, it would have been conſtrued diſaffection in any member, that ſhould give any oppoſition to the granting of ſubſidies, the principal buſineſs of the *Nordwegian* diet. This part of the public buſineſs was always firſt diſpatched. It now went off as glibly as ever; each member having been properly inſtructed in, and paid for, his taſk.

The reſt of the public buſineſs was introduced and diſpatched in its turn; all, that were not in the ſecret, every moment expecting ſome oppoſition to the preſent, and cenſures upon paſt, meaſures. But, all that hitherto appeared ſpeakers in the houſe, were engaged to the viceroy; ſo that every queſtion in the diet was carried as he directed, under the influence of the treaſury. While the dumb, led members, not in the ſecret, ſtood ſtaring aghaſt at one another.

Towards the latter end of the ſeſſion, ſome that reſented their not being perſonally conſulted and conſidered, roſe and gave ſome unexpected oppoſition. Before this got to any heighth, it was judged ſeaſonable to vacate the preſident's chair. The new peer quitted it, for his penſion and a ſeat in the upper houſe. Upon which, *Herr Punſyburgh* was choſen as his brother the viceroy directed, with little or no oppoſition. But, by a fair calculation of the bribes and penſions given to ſecure this gentleman's election, his taking the preſident's chair did not coſt the public much leſs than two hundred thouſand crowns. Thus expenſive was final corruption of of that wretched ſtate!

Till now, the people were only in a ferment. Now, their indignation burſt forth in fury, hardly to be reſtrained within any bounds. They uttered violent inſults and ſevere menaces againſt all the

ſhameleſs

ſhameleſs betrayers of their country. The daſtards kept a while out of their way, and in time, the fruitleſs rage of the multitude ſubſided.

In the commons however, a new ſpirit of oppoſition appeared. Some were inſtigated thro' diſappointment; others by being deceived by pretended friends, who bargained for their ſale, without giving them any ſhare in the purchaſe. All now ſaw the crafts and artifices of the peers, *Salten* and *Ghcbildaragh*, and felt the treachery of *Gorter*, *Maloffuzz*, *Furhman*, *Hahns*, and the reſt; and many exclaimed bitterly againſt them. But before an headleſs diſtracted ſociety could paſs the bitter reſolutions, that ſome propoſed, or could make motions to render the chair uneaſy to the new, ſurreptitious preſident; the viceroy, to prevent animoſities, brought the ſeſſion to a ſudden concluſion; for, while the commons were engaged in ſharp debates, he commanded their attendance in the upper houſe, where he gave the royal aſſent to all the bills that were paſt, and then, proroguing the diet, bad them, as I do you, moſt heartily farewell!

LETTER XVIII.

THE entire ſecrets of the adminiſtration now came out. The populace raged univerſally, but moſt in *Bergen*. No rank eſcaped their indignation or their licentious tongues. They abuſed the viceroy himſelf, calling him a kind of journeyman viceroy, and compared him to the moſt hateful of his predeceſſors, from whom, they ſaid, he differed in diſpoſition, but as in name; in which, as they expreſſed it, their excellencies agreed to a T, the only difference between *Yarringburgh* and *Yartingburgh*.

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His excellency, finding the popular reſentment riſing to an exceſs of licentiouſneſs, thought it beſt to ſhorten his reſidence, and retreat privately and in peace. He therefore named and commiſſioned his regents, which were the high chancellor and the lords *Ghchildaragh* and *Beſston*, leaving out the primate, agreeable to his compact, and the new preſident of the commons; contrary to cuſtom.

When he had done this, he privately ordered ſhips to take him and his retinue on board; and, without giving notice to his army or his uſual attendants, as ſecretly as poſſible imbarked. By which he avoided a moſt ungrateful ſalutation from the inraged citizens.

Soon after, he arrived ſafe at *Copenhagen*, where he met a moſt gracious reception from his royal maſter; who, in a ſhort time after, removed him from his now diſagreeable vicegerency, to the moſt conſiderable employment about the court. This, his excellency ſoon changed for another of leſs trouble and importance, but which engaged him more in the royal preſence.

When the firſt men of *Nordweg* were found ſo corrupt, ſo venal, that they ſtopt at no iniquity, for the perpetration of which they were paid; it was eaſy to break the force and weight of the public ſtill farther, by encouraging all the people of fortune to quit the country. This was eaſily done by holding out to them the variety of tempting allurements about a court. The nobility and gentry of *Nordweg* had been ſo long nurtured and bred up in ſervility to a court, that it was judged expedient to mix a few of them with the diet of *Danemarch*. Wherefore, ſome were called up to the nobles, others were encouraged to purchaſe

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ſeats in the aſſembly of the commons in *Danemarch*, all the better to ſerve the purpoſes of the court, now bent upon inſlaving the people of both kingdoms.

By this means, *Nordweg* was in a ſhort time exhauſted of her natural ſtrength. All that could afford to live abroad, repaired to the court of *Danemarch*; where ſome got titles, others places and penſions, and many met their ruin. At length, the ſchools and univerſities of *Nordweg* were deſpiſed and deſerted; every man that could afford it, ſending his children to be educated, or rather to make connexions at the ſchools and univerſities of *Danemarch*. What was now wanting to compleat the ruin of this wretched people? Nothing, but diminiſhing the weight of the civil, and raiſing that of the military, power; a project, in which no magiſtrate of any rank failed: for, the moſt inconſiderable offender could not now be taken or carried to the puniſhment of the ſtocks, without the interpoſition of military force.

Thus did the ſeveral kings, for ſeveral ages, concur with the malevolent ſubjects of *Danemarch*, in uſing all means to break the civil power in *Nordweg*, to take away the authority of diets, by making them hateful and contemptible, and in finally reducing the whole ſtate gradually, but moſt effectually, to ſlavery: for, when after repeated trials of their diets, the people at length, by fatal experience learned, that they were ſo far from deſerving confidence, that they did not dare to truſt their pretended repreſentatives; they were in time ready to ſubmit to any kind of government, the king ſhould offer; ſeeing none could be worſe than they had long found their diets.

This was the diſpoſition, to which the kings had long laboured to bring the *Nordwegians*. They

had at length gained the deſired point. And nothing was now wanting, but to introduce ſuch meaſures of adminiſtration in *Danemarch*, as ſhould induce this people alſo to prefer any other form of government to profligate and perfidious diets.

Having taken this curſory view of ſome of the latter modes of adminiſtration in *Nordweg*, and ſeen how that unhappy people were prepared for the yoke of any bondage that ſhould offer; let us ſee what further ſteps were taken to the ſame effect in *Danemarch*, before her final diſſolution was wrought.

The war, which was upon juſt provocation declared, to bring an inſidious, inſolent enemy to juſtice, was proſecuted ſluggiſhly, ſhamefully, and ended diſadvantageouſly, ingloriouſly. Many men were loudly charged with ſuch infamous practices, as prevented the ſucceſſes of the fleets and land forces of *Danemarch*. But great offenders were ſo fenced in from juſtice, either by the crown or by factions in the diet, under the direction of the king or the miniſtry, that for a long time none could be brought to any degree of juſtice.

Repetitions of ſuch miſcarriages and lawleſs protections at length made the people violent and deſperate. In proportion as the popular ſpirit was raiſed, that of the king and his miniſters were, from conſciouſneſs of guilt, abaſed. The multitude ſoon ſaw their ſtrength and the weakneſs of their contemptible rulers; and by noiſe and clamour, frequently drove the miniſtry from their purpoſes, and made them fall in with thoſe of the populace.

A corrupt miniſtry and a licentious multitude, are equally hard to be confined within the bounds of reaſon or of law; each occaſionally runs to boundleſs extremes. Cowards in power ever become the moſt mercileſs, perverſe tyrants; as under

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ſubjection, they are ever the moſt abject vaſſals. By theſe alternately, were the falling people of *Danemarch*, for a long time, governed. When a cowardly miniſtry were brought to think their ſway eſtabliſhed; neither truth, juſtice, mercy or law were found to bear any part in the adminiſtration. And when a cowardly populace were brought to know, that they had gained the aſcendant over a more daſtard miniſtry; the popular clamour forced the miniſters, ſometimes to take juſt, but as often, the moſt unjuſt, meaſures.

Thus, the mob ſometimes held honours, life and death at their capricious diſpoſal. If any governor or commander was found ſo far to diſcharge the duty of his office, that he accidentally eſcaped incurring the cenſure or the laſh of the law, which rarely happened in the laſt years of *Danemarch*; the mob firſt loaded him, often moſt unworthily, with clamorous applauſes, and forced the men in power to heap honours upon him, where ſtripes, bonds and infamy were more juſtly due. Or, if the mob-led hero happened to die in the diſcharge of his office, even where declining his taſk was liable to be puniſhed with death; his licentious patrons had ſuch honours done his memory, as their wiſe anceſtors paid to real worth. Thus were the diet ſometimes put under a ſort of neceſſity of erecting public monuments to men, for only doing that, which being omitted, ſubjected them to death, when judgment and law took place.

The like misfortune attended, when any man, however innocent, fell under the diſpleaſure or diſlike of the ſometimes-ſovereign rabble. If they imagined him criminal, it was enough. If they were able to come at him, they ſaved the civil magiſtrate the trouble of executing him, murdered the imaginary criminal, for the preſervation of

peace and liberty, and the promotion of the public good. If the civil power upon any charge happened firſt to lay hold on any man; if he were rendered obnoxious to the corrupt multitude, which was ever in the power of factious leaders; he was condemned by the rabble rout in every coffee-houſe and beer-houſe, or other confuſed meeting; ſung in doleful ditties thro' the ſtreets, ſometimes hanged and burnt in effigy; after which, it was hardly poſſible to get a court, that would venture to acquit him, however innocent they believed him; or a ſovereign that would be permitted by his miniſters to extend his mercy in the behalf of innocence and betrayed truth.

When it happened, that the rabble, for want of active leaders, did not keep their influence on the adminiſtration, matters run in the oppoſite extremes. Men were no longer dealt with in proportion to their crimes or their innocence, but in proportion to their intereſts at court. The blackeſt crimes were overlooked or paſt over with licentious impunity, in favourites of the men in power. It has often been known, that robbery, murder and high treaſon, have been made up, even after officious men made good the charges in the ſight of thoſe that were intruſted with power to puniſh the daring offenders. Murders that were committed under the ſanction of a duel, were hardly ever puniſhed; except when it fell to the charge of men in an oppoſite intereſt to the miniſtry. Adultery and rapes were likewiſe occaſionally ſet down in the liſt of venial offences, or puniſhed according to the affections of the party or faction, with which the criminal was connected. Yea, it has been known, that a daring offender has at one time eſcaped the puniſhment due to a rape, and ſome time after, upon the change and prevalence of party, has been outlawed

for the ſame crime. Upon a change in the ſyſtem of miniſterial affairs, the puniſhment of outlawry upon this offender has been ſuſpended; till the malefactor, becoming hardened in his iniquity by ſuch encouragement, has audaciouſly entered into a church, with a gang of armed ruffians, and there, in the midſt of divine ſervice, regardleſs of the ſacred ceremony performing, in contempt of the ſanctity of the place, and, the interpoſition of the man of God at the altar; in ſhort, in open violation and contempt of the laws of God and man, has been known to ſeize the unhappy victim of his luſt, and to carry her forcibly away, in the ſight of a frighted, diſtracted congregation, and of weeping parents; making them all priſoners in the church, to prevent a purſuit or interruption, till the ſavage monſter had ſated his worſe than brutal paſſion. Was there ever a people, that could ſuffer ſuch outrages to paſs unpuniſhed? Yes; tho' you will hardly believe it, *Danemarch* has been curſed with a miniſtry, who has pardoned ſuch unheard-of offences; or, which is ſtill worſe, given command, in the name of the king, that the matchleſs criminal ſhould neither be proſecuted nor moleſted! Was ever ſuch a licence for iniquity iſſued out in *Britain* or *Ireland?* Impoſſible! Were ever ſuch indulgencies in iniquity iſſued out by the ſin-licence office of hell, modern *Rome?*

Thus unequal and uncertain did the diſpenſations of honour, of juſtice and of law remain in *Danemarch* for the reſidue of a reign, which the beſt friends of the king, laying ſelf aſide, thought by odds too long. Wiſdom, juſtice and truth ſeemed expelled the ſtate, and no man in it ſeemed to pay any regard to the laws of God or man, further than he found it neceſſary for the promoting ſome private

vate end, to which the good of ſociety was ever ſacrificed.

I might here, if not heretofore, have cloſed the tragic ſcene, by bringing on the hiſtory of the great cataſtrophe in *Danemarch*: for, every reader will rather wonder at her ſubſiſting thus long, than he would at her fall, long before the meaſures of her iniquity were filled thus high. But, it may be amuſing, if not to ſome intereſting, to trace out regularly the progreſs of tyranny, thro' the various hands that contributed to the completion of the ſlavery of *Nordweg* and of *Danemarch*; to which purpoſe, I ſhall proceed in the ſequel.

Let me here only make this ſhort addreſs to all kingdoms and ſtates of the world; except *Great Britain* and happy *Ireland*; to which, all cautions of this kind muſt be unneceſſary, uſeleſs, or impertinent.

You that have yet retained any ſenſe of freedom, and the form of your antient free governments, if ſuch a people exiſts, out of our free kingdoms; look about you; examine well the ſtate of your political health; look to the adminiſtrations of your magiſtrates, councils and members; ſee whether any part be infected with the peſtilence of corruption, that brought on the ſlavery and deſtruction of *Nordweg* and *Danemarch*. Take timely warning, by their wretched fate; retrench your luxuries; ſtop the progreſs of corruption; recover your country; grow wiſe; be virtuous; and with theſe good qualities, hand down the bleſſings of FREEDOM and HEALTH to lateſt poſterity.

Here endeth the HISTORY of NORTHERN REVOLUTIONS,

PART II.